



COMMUNITY PASTURE PATRONS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

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**Manitoba Plan leaves Saskatchewan Pasture Patrons at a Disadvantage.**

The Manitoba community pasture transition program was rolled out this week, making it clear that Saskatchewan pasture patrons are being placed at a disadvantage. The Manitoba approach provides the land to the patron governed corporation at no lease cost in return for an expectation that the benefits to the wider community be maintained. One patron governed corporation will continue to provide grazing services to pasture patrons from across the province. The nonprofit corporation is to be run by patrons and received the necessary start up funding to provide a smooth transition to a patron run governance. In last week's budget, the Manitoba pasture patrons received a \$650,000 capital grant to allow patrons to purchase capital assets necessary to start the pastures under patron governance. Assets such as post pounders, chore tractors, trucks and trailers which were taken by the federal government and auctioned off for sale can now be replaced. In addition patrons were provided a \$500,000 operating loan to allow patrons to continue to participate in the program with no upfront costs.

While patrons in Saskatchewan have been frustrated in coming to terms with the Provincial Government, the chair of the Manitoba Pasture Association, Barry Lowes, spoke glowingly of support from industry and government in Manitoba: "The Manitoba Beef Producers have had our backs covered right from the get go. They have helped us organize meetings, conference calls and most anything else that we requested of them. The Manitoba Agriculture and Conservation Departments have helped us in this process every step of the way. They have lobbied the other departments on our behalf to help us all get to our common goal. Our board has invested much time and effort on behalf of the community pasture patrons of Manitoba. I would personally like to recognize all those involved; from whatever department or organization they represent, and thank all these individuals for their efforts."

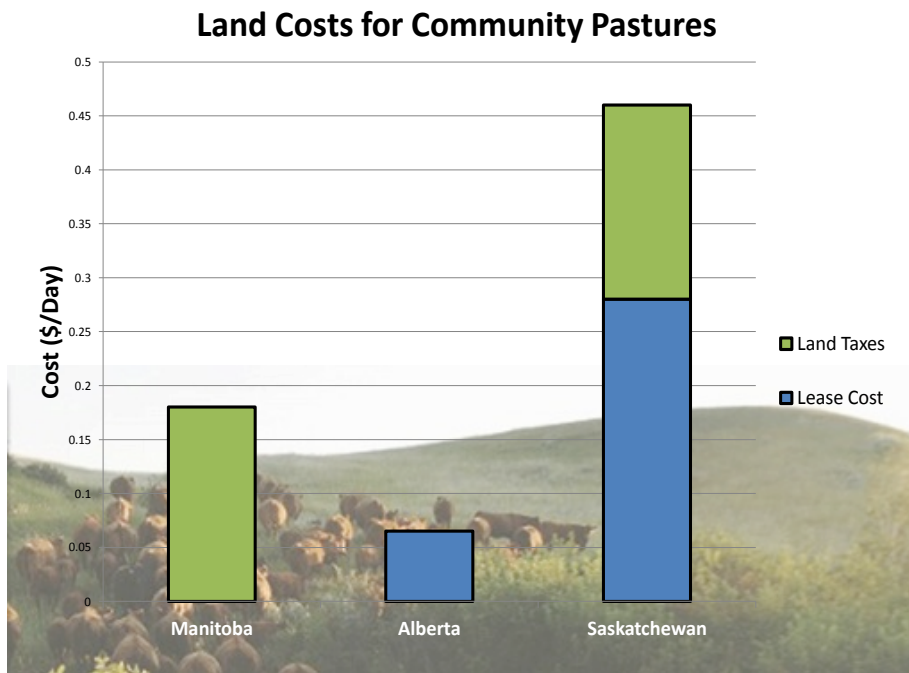
The Manitoba approach needs to be compared to Saskatchewan where the Patrons will be charged a full private lease fee and where any monies allotted to Patrons cannot be used for capital assets or startup funding other than accounting and legal fees. In the province of Saskatchewan the Government is insisting that each pasture develop its own corporate structure and will only disburse monies on a reimbursement basis for the accounting and legal allowable expenses. CPPAS and their membership has however, worked together through our association, to develop a legal structure, review the lease, develop bylaws, and develop management services contracts. The Saskatchewan Government is still insisting that in spite of the fact that pastures have saved patrons and the government tens of thousands of dollars by working together, there is no way to reallocate this money to uses which would be valuable to start up viable pastures.

Brent Cammer, CPPAS Director and Rancher – "It's frustrating when you hear your own Agriculture Minister speak about the importance of Patrons on this issue yet refuses to put in place an affordable program in this Province that not only recognizes the public good but also recognizes the vast differences of private lease land vs. the Community Pasture lease land. Patrons do not have similar rights on their lease contract as a Private Lease Holder has. Instead our Cattleman's Association along with the Agriculture Ministry is putting a program in place which has already proven to push many producers out of the Community Pasture system and will eventually push them out of the Cattle industry."

“Patrons don’t need more lawyers and advisors, we need post pounders, trailers, and a truck to move horses around these large pastures,” said Ian McCreary chair of the Community Pasture Patrons Association (CPPAS). “The Manitoba transition plan appears to balance the cattle producer needs with the needs of the public interest. Perhaps now is the time to learn from our neighbours. Just like Alberta, the benefits to the wider community are recognized from the outset in the Manitoba approach. We have seen the costs of having an emergency order imposed on the cattle industry with the recent sage grouse fiasco. Issues around the environment are here to stay. Now is the time to be proactive and review the Manitoba approach,” said McCreary.

The former PFRA pastures were thrown into a state of transition when the Federal Government announced the end of the pasture program in the budget of 2012. This program had been reviewed for value for money in 2006 and was one of a handful of government programs which was demonstrated to return more value than cost. In addition, this audit showed that approximately half the benefits accrued to the wider community

CPPAS is a volunteer association of Saskatchewan Community Pasture Patrons working together to attain sustainable community pastures and promote viable grassland stewardship. Our membership includes the majority of pasture patrons from 40 of the 62 pastures in Saskatchewan.



The numbers on the graph show the land costs paid in leases and municipal taxes. All other labour and operational costs are in addition to these costs.

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