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YOUNG FARMERS NEED HELP SAYS TROST

Ottawa – During a take-note debate on agriculture in the House of Commons last night, Conservative Brad Trost, MP for Saskatoon-Humboldt, brought attention to the plight of young farmers and the inability of the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program to help farmers trying to establish their operations:

“I represent a rural Saskatchewan riding and I come from that background. In 1929, my great grandfather first purchased the land, which is still in our family. Therefore, it is very personal to me to watch the devastation in the agriculture industry, in particular the grains and oilseeds sector which is suffering greatly and at great magnitude after many years. It is an industry, in particular the grains and oilseeds and agriculture in total, in which the government will stand behind farmers in every way possible.”

“One thing was mentioned tonight on which I would like to get the member’s opinion. Young farmers are exiting or not entering the industry. I grew up on a family farm. I still go back to help my father swath and harvest. The option was not there for me. Financially it would be impossible for me to take over the farm from my father.”

“It has been observed that instead of worrying about exit plans for older farmers, if we had an entry plan for younger farmers, the problem of exiting would be solved. We need to build this industry.”

“The major problem with the CAIS program was, with the reference margins, young farmers were left out. People did not have enough years to meet the reference margins.”

MP Trost then asked Bloc Québécois MP André Bellavance the following question:

“Would the hon. member and his party support the government’s efforts to ensure that provincial agriculture ministers come on side to help make changes to get rid of the CAIS program and build a program for younger farmers? Will the hon.

member and his party support programs to help bring young farmers in and make changes to eliminate the CAIS program so young farmers are looked after?"

MP Bellavance (representing the riding of Richmond-Arthabaska) replied:

"The Bloc Québécois has always been concerned about the plight of young farmers. I am pleased that the member raised the issue of grain producers, who are also suffering greatly in Quebec." [*Translation*]

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For more info, contact the Ottawa Office of MP Brad Trost at (613) 992-8052.