

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2008

10247 124 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1P8
P: 780.414.1124
F: 780.414.1125
T: 1.800.661.9201
E: office@albertaliberal.com

Alberta Liberals to investigate high fertilizer prices

Red Deer – Kevin Taft announced today that an Alberta Liberal government will launch an inquiry into high fertilizer prices, which are up 50 per cent over the last two years.

“There’s no obvious reason for these excessive price increases, especially with natural gas prices flat,” said Taft. “An Alberta Liberal government will launch an inquiry into high fertilizer prices, and if necessary take measures to end price gouging.”

“Alberta’s farmers have been neglected and forgotten by this government for too long,” said Taft. “What have the Tories actually done for rural Albertans? They take the rural vote for granted and allow family farms to suffer.

“It’s time for a change. We need a new government, one that actually listens to the needs of family farms,” Taft said.

“Easing the burden of high fertilizer prices is just one step we’ll take to help farmers, because there’s so much to do. We’ll also work with farmers to revise aid programs and delivery to make sure they actually get the aid that’s set out for them.”

Taft added the Alberta Liberals will make it a priority to ensure that farmers’ voices are heard and that their hard work is supported.

The Alberta Liberals released their policy on rural communities as part of their Action Plan for Alberta at the start of this campaign (www.albertaliberal.com, under “What We Stand For”).

Other steps an Alberta Liberal government will take for farmers include:

- Protect long-term water supplies for agriculture and rural communities by restricting inter-basin water transfers, phasing out the pumping of fresh water down oil wells and implementing our coal bed methane strategy.
- Collaborate with cattle producers to build a sustainable base for the beef industry.
- Keep the Alberta Utilities Commission – the former EUB – responsible and accountable.
- Restore regional agriculture offices to create a “one-stop shop” for rural Albertans for information and consultative services on all provincial matters.
- Review the Surface Rights Act and Expropriation Act to make sure a fair balance is struck between industry and landowners.
- Create a land use plan to balance industrial interests with the interests of communities and the environment.

“Our farmers and ranchers are the backbone of Alberta, and we’ll work with them to create a sustainable agriculture sector that allows small operators and family farms to thrive,” said Taft.

“It’s time for the next Alberta – it’s time for a new government.”

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For more information contact:
Michael Spears, Media Liaison
(780) 919-2617

or

Larry Johnsrude, Tour Media
780-914-7689

It's time.
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