



***Pierre Lemieux,
Député / Member of Parliament
Glengarry—Prescott—Russell***

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THE LIBERALS DON'T UNDERSTAND AGRICULTURE

"Farmers are doing better now than they have in a very long time! Surely this is good news. It's unfortunate that the Liberals have taken this good news for farmers and turned it into bad news."

Pierre Lemieux, MP

Ottawa – Last week, the federal government tabled its Main Estimates in the House of Commons, and in doing so, indicated that within agriculture, next year's government expenses are expected to be \$418 million less than was anticipated a year ago.

The government expects farmers to draw less on government assistance programs as a result of their stronger financial position and thus, the Estimates are lower on Business Risk Management programming. When farmers do better, they need less government assistance.

Pierre Lemieux, the MP for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell and the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, explained that the Main Estimates reflect the improving financial situation of farmers. Mr. Lemieux stated, "Average farm net worth is up 44 per cent over five years. Crop yields have been excellent. Grain and oil seed prices are high, pork and beef prices are up, our Agriculture Minister has opened numerous foreign markets to our farmers and our Conservative programs are working." He continued, "Farmers are doing better now than they have in a very long time! Surely this is good news. It's unfortunate that the Liberals have taken this good news for farmers and turned it into bad news."

With respect to lower Main Estimates in agricultural research, Mr. Lemieux clarified that a number of programs are expected to expire this year, such as programming to fight the Plum Pox virus and Circovirus. Mr. Lemieux confirmed, "These programs did their jobs and they have simply come to their natural end."

Mr. Lemieux referenced a January 2011 Farm Credit Canada Survey that found that:

- 66% of farmers said that they are better off now than they were five years ago
- 81% of livestock producers stated that they will be better off in the next five years
- 80% are more likely to recommend a career in agriculture or a related field to friends and family



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Mr. Lemieux commented that these types of results have occurred under the Conservative government and that farmers know that “when it comes to Conservatives and agriculture, farmers come first.”

Mr. Lemieux criticized the Liberals for wanting to raise business taxes. Mr. Lemieux stated, "The Liberals don't understand agriculture well. Their plan to increase business taxes by \$6 billion will definitely hurt businesses across the riding – including farmers. Farms are businesses and they don't need to suffer under a tax increase."

Mr. Lemieux concluded, "As MP and as the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, I have the great privilege of working with farmers in my riding and across the country. They know that I am working hard to ensure that they succeed."

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