

Ontario Grain & Oilseed Safety Net Committee

Ontario Canola Growers' Association
Ontario Coloured Bean Growers' Association
Ontario Corn Producers' Association
Ontario Soybean Growers
Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board
Ontario White Bean Producers' Marketing Board
Seed Corn Growers of Ontario

May 3, 2006

Federal budget could be good news for Ontario grain & oilseed farmers

Yesterday's federal budget announcement of \$1.5 billion for agriculture could be the good news beleaguered grain & oilseed farmers have been waiting for.

While details are still short, Ontario farm leaders are hopeful to begin working with the provincial and federal governments to ensure a portion of the allocated funds are part of a long-term strategy to put Ontario's grain & oilseed farmers back on solid footing.

"We commend the Conservative government for acknowledging the farm income crisis grain & oilseed farmers have been facing," says Peter Tuinema, Chair of the Ontario Grain & Oilseed Safety Net Committee. "This is a critical first step in a partnership that will lead to a strengthened farm economy and food stability for Canadians."

The details of delivery are still unclear, but farm leaders are hopeful to begin meeting with both the Federal and Provincial representatives soon to help address the farm income crisis.

"There's a bit of concern that the \$1 billion is only a one-year commitment, but we look forward to working with both levels of government to meet the needs of a long-term strategy," says Tuinema. "We have a very short time frame to ensure a Risk Management Program is in place for next year, but we're encouraged by this announcement and confident we'll be able to work out a win for the province, the federal government, and Ontario's 29,000 grain & oilseed farmers."

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