



Union fundamentals and directions 2015 - 2017



POUVOIR NOURRIR
POUVOIR GRANDIR

L'Union des producteurs agricoles

Resolutions adopted
at the 2015 UPA General Congress

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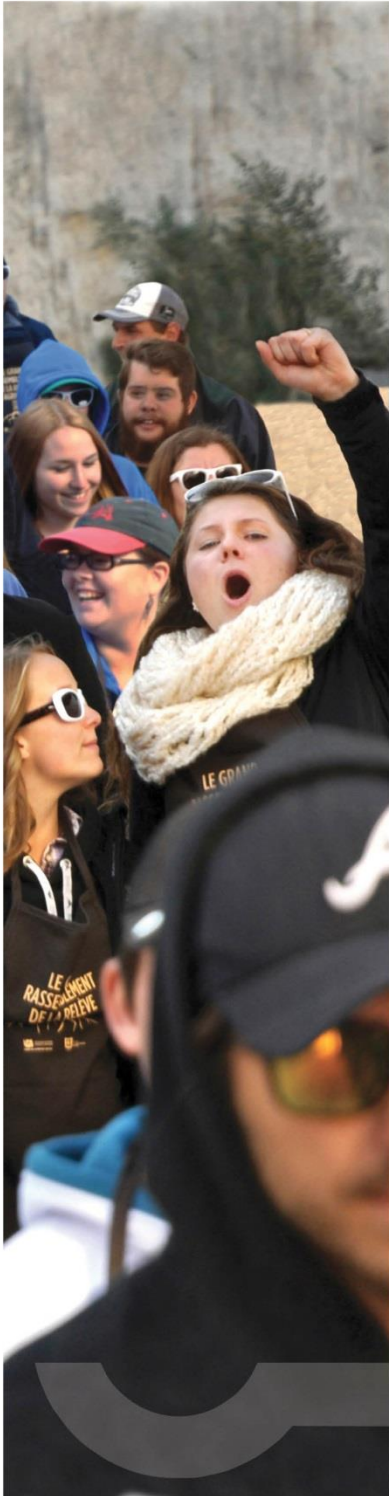
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Union fundamentals

UPA POUVOIR NOURRIR
POUVOIR GRANDIR
L'Union des producteurs agricoles

The Union's Governing Framework

Fundamental values

The Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) is a professional farm union organization. Its main purpose and style of action are based on the fundamental values of respect for the individual, solidarity, collective action, social justice, equity and democracy.

Mission

The UPA's primary mission, keeping these values in mind, is to promote, defend and develop the professional, economic, social and moral interests of Quebec agricultural and forestry producers, without distinction as to race, nationality, gender, language or beliefs.

Moreover, since the UPA interacts regularly with all Quebec society, it contributes to improving the social, economic and cultural life of rural communities.

Lastly, the UPA recognizes that Quebec agriculture and forestry is evolving in a context of world interactions and, consequently, it may align itself with collective action by agricultural and forestry producer groups both in other Canadian provinces and in other countries.

Fundamental principles

To translate its mission into concrete and committed actions, the Union abides by certain principles that have been defined over the years and that still serve to guide decisions on the future development of the agricultural and forestry sectors.

The guiding principles on which we base our actions are:

1. The Union brings together and represents all Quebec agricultural and forestry producers, without regard to the size or structure of their farm, the type of commodity they produce, or their place of residence.
2. To guarantee its independence, the UPA's operations are funded exclusively by all agricultural producers, through standard dues, as well as a check-off based on the quantity of farm and forestry production marketed.
3. The members control the union, in particular, through democratic ways of operating, a dynamic union life, and its funding method.

4. When setting priorities or developing services, collective interests must always prevail over individual or sectorial interests.
5. Collective action, lobbying activities, a steady presence in the public mind and partnership alliances are the Union's primary means of supporting its strategic directions.
6. By the stances it takes and its actions, the UPA promotes the preservation and development of family-owned, human-scale farms, essentially operated and managed by the family.
7. Agricultural and forestry producers must earn a fair income based on their cost of production, first through a collective approach to marketing, then through various complementary mechanisms that may be necessary, given the cyclical and structural characteristics of these sectors.
8. In order to be able to farm and to develop agriculture in Quebec, agricultural zones must be protected and priority must be given to farming activities in these zones.
9. Protection of the environment and the development of sustainable farming practices are fundamental elements in ensuring the survival of agriculture and agricultural operations.
10. Appropriate strategies must be devised to help aspiring young farmers have access to the farming profession and the farm union movement.
11. Agricultural training and consulting services are essential to the development of agricultural operations and must be available to all agricultural producers in Quebec.
- 12. The quality of farm life is an on-going concern, particularly through the prevention of accidents and occupational diseases.



workshop 1

Union activity,
communications
and
workforce

1. MODERNIZATION OF THE UNION AND MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM FINANCING PLAN

WHEREAS the modernization of the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) began in early 2011;

WHEREAS the local unions (locals) play a central role in this reform;

WHEREAS the experience of the last five years shows the important part locals play in making the UPA an active union and in rallying producers;

WHEREAS the locals' and regional federations' activities and efforts to reach producers and to rally them when needed were far greater than expected;

WHEREAS current objectives have called for positions for representatives of small farms to be created within the locals and regional federations;

WHEREAS representatives from the locals and regional federations wish to carry out structuring projects that can strengthen this group of farmers' sense of belonging to the UPA;

WHEREAS no accurate picture of these farmers is available;

WHEREAS financial needs related to the above elements were difficult to predict when the 2012–2017 financing plan was developed;

WHEREAS work surrounding the development of a new financing plan will begin soon;

WHEREAS it is necessary to represent all farmers fairly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The UPA**
 - To require the Comité de financement à moyen et long terme to take the following into account in developing its proposals:
 - the regional federations' and locals' increased financial needs since the modernization of the UPA, to ensure a more active local presence and fairer funding;
 - the support required by the regional federations and locals to develop structuring projects aimed at producers with small farms;
 - To meanwhile carry out a study on the characteristics of small farms or to financially back such a study;
 - To capitalize on opportunities so that all productions contribute fairly to financing the UPA according to the volumes marketed.



2. WOMEN FARMERS IN THE UPA'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

WHEREAS women farmers have a greater presence in the UPA's organizational structure, but the proportion of women remains low when compared to their numbers on farms;

WHEREAS only 14% of the elected positions within our organizational structure are held by women;

WHEREAS 26% of the owners or co-owners of Quebec agricultural businesses are women farmers;

WHEREAS efforts must be made throughout the UPA to increase the number of women members;

WHEREAS several organizations employ strategies, though not measures of coercion, to increase the number of women in their organizational structure;

WHEREAS many factors, financial or otherwise, e.g., child care, may impact women's and young parents' participation in our organizational structure;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The UPA**
 - To work with the specialized groups and regional federations to identify and implement concrete measures that encourage the role of women in the UPA's organizational structure (at the local, regional and provincial levels);
 - To set participation objectives to track the change in the number of women in the organizational structure.

3. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE SECTOR'S ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AND PROMOTION OF THE PROFESSION

WHEREAS agriculture, agri-food and forestry are key economic sectors for Quebec and its regions, in particular because of the wealth and jobs they create;

WHEREAS the agricultural, agri-food and forestry sectors are near absent from the Government of Quebec's economic plan presented in March 2015 for fiscal year 2015–2016 and later years;

WHEREAS, overall, this plan should bring “\$13 billion in investments [and sustain] an average of 20,000 jobs per year from now until 2019–2020”;

WHEREAS the UPA made representations to all elected officials in the National Assembly regarding how these sectors could further contribute to job creation;

WHEREAS for almost 15 years farm and forest producers have employed a strategy to promote the sector and the profession;

WHEREAS the economic value of these sectors must be brought to the attention of citizens, elected officials, young people and students alike;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) has made little effort to demonstrate the importance of these sectors to the population and to the government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Government of Quebec**
 - To include agriculture, agri-food and private forestry in its economic plan, when the next budget is tabled;
- **The Minister of Agriculture of Quebec**
 - To make the necessary representations to the members of Cabinet to ensure that agriculture, agri-food and private forestry are included in the Government of Quebec's economic plan;
 - To support initiatives that aim to promote the profession and the sector;

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE SECTOR'S ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AND PROMOTION OF THE PROFESSION (CONTINUED)

- **The Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche**
 - To integrate content into its curriculum that raises awareness among students, teachers and parents about the importance and the realities of the farm and forestry sectors;
- **The UPA and the specialized federations**
 - To apply the pressure required to get the government to take action as soon as possible and to rally producers as needed;
 - To continue their activities promoting the profession and the sector;
 - To support the regions in their promotional activities;
 - To take citizens, elected officials, young people and students into account in their strategies to promote the sector's economic importance;
- **The locals**
 - To make the necessary representations to the municipalities and regional county municipalities (RCMs) to emphasize the importance of the investments made in their area by agriculture and private forestry.

4. FARMERS' PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

WHEREAS from 1996 to 2006 the percentage of farmers who acknowledged experiencing a high level of distress went from 17.5% to 50.9%;

WHEREAS the suicide rate of farmers is two times higher than that of the general population in Quebec;

WHEREAS this is a public health issue;

WHEREAS many sources of stress contribute to the increase in cases of psychological distress among farmers:

- difficulties with work-family balance;
- growing market price volatility, climate variability and increased frequency of extreme weather events, emergence of livestock diseases and crop pests;
- farm families' isolation, which is aggravated by the decreasing number of farms;
- regulatory requirements of all kinds (environment, animal welfare, salubrity, etc.);
- growing difficulties in finding replacement workers;

WHEREAS the government has the authority to act on many of these issues;

WHEREAS through some of its own actions it has contributed to increasing farmers' insecurity (e.g., tightening measures to the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance program);

WHEREAS the UPA is a professional union whose purpose and actions are based on certain values: respect for people, solidarity, collective action, social justice, fairness and democracy;

WHEREAS the UPA adopted an action plan to attack this issue, a plan which provides for several concrete actions;

WHEREAS the mission of the Ordre des psychologues du Québec is to protect the public, including by ensuring the quality of the services provided by its members and by working to keep psychological services accessible;

WHEREAS the available service providers have difficulty reaching farmers and are unfamiliar with their profession;

WHEREAS it is important to make farm life better understood by those working in suicide prevention and in Quebec's health and social services sector;

WHEREAS on this issue it is important for farmers to have access to professional services if the situation is to be improved;

FARMERS' PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES

- **The Government of Quebec**

- To implement specific assistance measures that make psychological health support accessible to farmers and that, among other things, provide for the resources needed to hire people who will work closely with farmers and the agricultural community and to raise awareness among workers in the health and social services network about the current realities of the farming profession;
- Through its programs and operations, to ensure its contribution in establishing a stable and predictable business environment, one that encourages the development of businesses and the sector;
- To set up programs and to create a provincial organization whose mission will be to ease the burden of farm families and to help them achieve better work-family balance;

- **The UPA**

- To implement, at all levels of the UPA, the measures presented in its action plan concerning farmers' psychological health;
- To continue to provide information and to make farmers aware of the risks of psychological distress, how to prevent it and the available assistance resources (training and information provided in *La Terre de chez nous*, in union publications, on affiliates' websites, on social media, in rural schools, etc.);
- To report annually on actions taken in support of farmers' psychological health;
- To work in partnership with the Fédération des agricultrices du Québec to address the issues of work-family balance;
- To support the organization Au Cœur des Familles Agricoles (ACFA) and the respite centre;

FARMERS' PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH (CONTINUED)

- **The UPA and its affiliates**
 - To put the issues of farmers' quality of life and the protection of their psychological health at the forefront of all their actions;
 - To engage in positive conversations on these issues when opportunities arise;
- **The Ordre des psychologues du Québec**
 - To support our requests and advocate for psychological services for farmers to be accessible throughout Quebec;
 - To take the steps needed to educate and train its members, so they can appropriately support farmers in need of their services.



5. TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAMS

WHEREAS the availability of an adequate workforce is needed to maintain and develop Quebec agricultural businesses;

WHEREAS the governments of Quebec and Canada make programs available to agricultural employers that enable them to hire temporary foreign workers to fill vacant positions;

WHEREAS workers in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) cannot work on farms between December 15 and January 1;

WHEREAS workers not in the SAWP can no longer work in Canada after a cumulative 48 months of work here;

WHEREAS these restrictions penalize both the employers and the workers concerned;

WHEREAS temporary foreign workers must wait months before being able to change agricultural employers during the season;

WHEREAS the programs for temporary foreign workers must take into account the realities of Quebec agricultural businesses as best as possible;

WHEREAS processing businesses whose operations are directly tied to seasonal farm production cannot have foreign workers account for more than 10% of their workforce;

WHEREAS agricultural and processing businesses whose operations are directly tied to seasonal farm production must first offer vacant positions to Canadian workers and are unable to fill those positions;

WHEREAS the 10% foreign worker limit placed on processing businesses may jeopardize their operations;

WHEREAS horticultural sector businesses in Quebec do not enjoy the same benefits as those in Ontario in terms of temporary foreign workers;

WHEREAS administrative problems were encountered with the arrival of Guatemalan workers during the 2014–2015 production seasons;

WHEREAS in 2015 Service Canada and Immigration Québec processing times were up to eight weeks long, which required producers to apply for temporary foreign workers six months in advance;

TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The new Canadian government**

- To amend the SAWP to allow employers to employ seasonal agricultural workers between December 15 and January 1;
- To amend the programs for foreign agricultural workers so as to abolish the cumulative limit of 48 months of work in Canada;
- To allow agricultural workers in the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to obtain a work permit enabling them to change employers quickly and easily during the season;
- To revise the TFWP so as to eliminate the 10% temporary foreign worker limit for processing businesses whose operations are directly tied to seasonal farm production;
- To amend the SAWP so that Quebec farmers receive the same public service fee deductions as their Ontario counterparts;
- To have the Canadian visa office in Guatemala revert to the procedures in force in 2013 so that workers in the TFWP arrive in Canada with a work permit that covers the duration of their stay;
- To add the maple sector to the national list of agricultural sectors eligible for the programs to hire temporary foreign workers;
- To reduce application processing times so as to prevent the inconveniences experienced in 2015;
- To reduce the administrative work for businesses that have already applied to a program to hire foreign workers (e.g., housing inspection valid for 12 months, number of forms and information required, five-year fast track for businesses that have remained the same and that have previously received a favourable Labour Market Impact Assessment).

6. EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

WHEREAS the 2013 employment insurance reform negatively impacted agricultural workers who cannot work in the business throughout the entire year;

WHEREAS the reform encourages these workers to leave the agricultural industry, which exacerbates the workforce shortage problems;

WHEREAS this exodus of workers causes a loss of expertise and skills that are important for the agricultural sector;

WHEREAS the Employment Insurance program could mean the difference between a temporary and a permanent layoff;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The new Canadian government**
 - To integrate into the Employment Insurance program a factor that will take into account the seasonal nature of the agricultural sectors, of private forestry and of certain agri-food processing businesses;
 - Not to penalize workers who have been temporarily laid off with a recall date.



7. ANIMAL WELFARE

WHEREAS the MAPAQ tabled Bill 54: *Act to improve the legal situation of animals*;

WHEREAS the UPA presented the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources with a report regarding this legislative bill;

WHEREAS it is essential to differentiate between the uses of the various animal species: human consumption, pets, etc.;

WHEREAS any legislative amendment that fails to recognize such differences in use could open the door to the potential imposition of livestock living conditions that may undermine the competitiveness of Quebec farmers;

WHEREAS Quebec farmers have always been concerned with animal welfare and have therefore contributed to the development and adoption of National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) codes of good practice for the care and handling of farm animals in numerous production sectors;

WHEREAS these national codes were developed by the NFACC in consensus with all actors of a given sector, including representatives from animal welfare groups and from the provincial and federal governments;

WHEREAS the current version of the legislative bill allows municipalities to impose stricter or tougher standards than those adopted by the government or those based on a code of good practice;

WHEREAS Bill 54 contains several unspecific and subjective concepts, such as sufficient space, opportunity for adequate exercise, excessive cold, etc.;

WHEREAS the municipalities do not have the resources or the scientific or technical knowledge to appropriately address animal welfare;

WHEREAS the provincial government cannot impose requirements where it will be unable to do so on imports of the same products;

WHEREAS only the agricultural sector will be subject to the condition of farm animal welfare to have access to government programs;

ANIMAL WELFARE (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:AU MAPAQ

- **The MAPAQ**

- To amend Bill 54 so as:
 - not to subject sectors to the regulatory requirements of section 63, paragraph 3 where the producers' boards of those sectors have used the NFACC codes of practice to establish rules or standards concerning animal welfare;
 - to specify that farm animals are not being referred to in the legislative bill in section 4, paragraph 1, which concerns municipalities' regulatory powers concerning the welfare of these species;
- To exempt farmers from measures for which Quebec will be unable to require reciprocity from other provinces and countries;
- To qualify certain concepts (anxiety, welfare versus mistreatment, fatigue, undue suffering, adequate exercise, etc.) so that subjectivity and emotion are not used as justifications in enforcing the proposed Act;
- To ensure the biosecurity of the farms is respected and otherwise to lift the immunity of inspectors that the legislative bill provides for;
- To respect the intervention protocols already established for farms by the producers' boards and, when needed, to determine with any producers' board with no such procedures intervention protocols for the farm inspections to be carried out in enforcing the proposed Act;
- To undertake to develop an ongoing training program for its representatives who will be required to apply the proposed legislation and its regulations;
- To provide producers with support in applying the Act, except in cases of acts of cruelty or abuse, before issuing notices of non-compliance or statements of offence;

ANIMAL WELFARE (CONTINUED)

- To ensure that the inspectors who will issue notices of non-compliance or statements of offence are competent and qualified;
- To require inspectors to obtain authorization from the owner or manager before entering a farm building or livestock area or to otherwise obtain a warrant;
- **The UPA**
 - To oppose any measures that aim to introduce a condition concerning animal welfare so that agricultural operations are eligible for financial support from the MAPAQ and from La Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ);
 - To make the UPA's requests concerning Bill 54 known to provincial MNAs;
 - To require the MAPAQ to financially support farmers in the investments that enforcement of the proposed Act will require;
- **The specialized federations concerned**
 - To implement a promotional strategy so that sound livestock practices are understood and accepted by the Quebec population.



8. MORATORIUM ON THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ALFALFA

WHEREAS in 2013 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) proceeded with the registration of the genetically modified (GM) alfalfa varieties J101 and J163 which authorizes the commercialization of the glyphosate-tolerant (Roundup Ready) GM alfalfa seed in Canada;

WHEREAS another variety of low-lignin GM alfalfa was authorized by the CFIA and Health Canada in 2014, but this is not yet registered as a commercial variety;

WHEREAS a study on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and published in August 2012, shows that GM alfalfa can be spread across large distances to contaminate neighbouring organic alfalfa fields, in particular through pollen carried by insect pollinators;

WHEREAS gene transfer through the natural process of pollination is possible where traditional, organic and genetically modified crops coexist;

WHEREAS the Canadian Seed Trade Association published a coexistence plan for the potential introduction of GM alfalfa into eastern Canada, but this plan has been criticized for the applicability of its proposed measures, since it is impossible to prevent GM alfalfa from contaminating nearby fields and farms, and since the current legislative framework is inadequate;

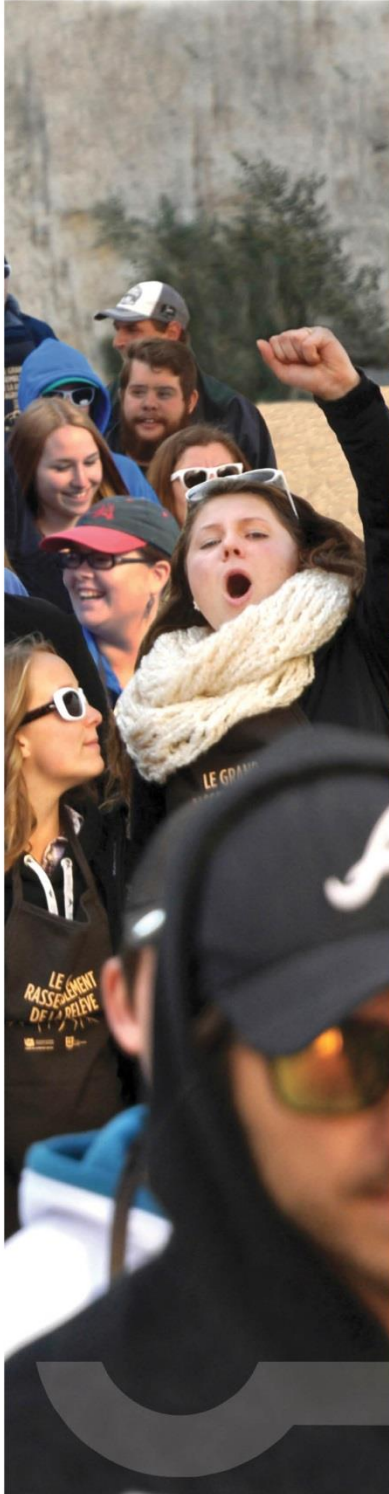
WHEREAS Quebec organic production sectors (forage, milk, beef cattle, goats, lambs and sheep) may experience considerable economic hardship should their crops be contaminated by GM alfalfa;

WHEREAS the Fédération d'agriculture biologique du Québec and the Filière biologique du Québec have asked Quebec members of Parliament to contact the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to have him prohibit the commercialization of GM alfalfa;

***MORATORIUM ON THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ALFALFA (CONTINUED)***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The new Canadian government**
 - To impose a permanent moratorium on the commercialization of GM alfalfa varieties in Canada;
- **The MAPAQ**
 - To support this request.



workshop 2

income security,
international
trade,
and
marketing

9. RÉGIE DES MARCHÉS AGRICOLES ET ALIMENTAIRES DU QUÉBEC (RMAAQ) OPERATIONS

WHEREAS the Act Respecting the Marketing of Agricultural, Food and Fish Products (the Act) establishes the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec (RMAAQ) as the public body for economic regulation, joint agreement monitoring, and dispute resolution;

WHEREAS, due to the adoption of the aforementioned Act, the Quebec agricultural model has withstood numerous crises, has adapted, and compares favourably to other Canadian models;

WHEREAS the Act establishes provisions supporting the development and the organization of the production and marketing of agricultural and agri-food products, as well as the marketing of fishery, forestry, and fur products;

WHEREAS the RMAAQ plays a pivotal role in the operations and development of the production and marketing of Quebec agricultural products through its responsibility to respond to all requests from agriculture, agri-food, and forest producers, offices, and stakeholders;

WHEREAS, through its expertise, the RMAAQ offers sector stakeholders a reliable and accessible body for mediation and arbitration, stands as the steward of efficient and organized agricultural product marketing, and supports the development of healthy relationships between agriculture stakeholders;

WHEREAS prior to the budget cut announcement, the RMAAQ was already struggling to process the volume of requests received in a reasonable delay, in particular requests for regulatory modifications received by producers' offices;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has announced cuts to the RMAAQ operating budget, which will further affect the organization's capacity to carry out its mandate;

WHEREAS, given its role, expertise, and status, the RMAAQ's access to the financial and human resources required for the fulfillment of its mission are a determining factor in the implementation of joint agreements;

***RÉGIE DES MARCHÉS AGRICOLES ET ALIMENTAIRES DU QUÉBEC
(RMAAQ) OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Government of Quebec**
 - To strengthen the RMAAQ;
- **The ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)**
 - To increase the budget available to the RMAAQ through additional credits allocated to the MAPAQ in order for the organization to be able to more efficiently fulfill its mission, notably in ensuring reasonable processing delays are met for approval and regulatory modification requests, and in securing sufficient financial and human resources to efficiently and fully fulfill its mandate, allowing agricultural producers to contribute to the economic development of Quebec

10. SUCCESSION: A PRIORITY

WHEREAS, on February 13, 2015, Minister Pierre Paradis of the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ), mandated Jean Pronovost to consult young farmers in regards to the obstacles they face, and to recommended solutions;

WHEREAS the minister has not met with the Fédération de la relève agricole (FRAQ), the organization representing the Quebec agricultural succession, which includes approximately 2,000 young producers, despite the organization's requests for a meeting;

WHEREAS the report of the Commission sur l'avenir de l'agriculture et de l'agroalimentaire québécois led by Mr. Pronovost made alarmist recommendations undermining the Quebec agricultural model, the implementation of which recommendations would have destabilized the sector by threatening, among others, the Farm Income Stabilization Program (ASRA), supply management, and collective marketing tools, without extending anything to the next generation;

WHEREAS this consultation and the government's choice of Mr. Pronovost at its helm raise concerns regarding the use of the agricultural succession issue to partisan ends;

WHEREAS the Union and the FRAQ have refused to participate in the consultation and have chosen instead to make a submission directly to the premier and to the minister of agriculture;

WHEREAS, in relation to this submission:

- an unprecedented survey has been carried of the aspirations of the next generation of agricultural producers among 700 farmers under 40 years of age, revealing that close to 90% of respondents aspire to the professional practice of agriculture in a viable and diversified industry based on independent family operations across the territory of Quebec;
- over 15 sector organizations, including Équiterre and the Coopérative pour une agriculture de proximité écologique, have contributed to the submission;
- a large gathering of over 300 youth was held in Montreal on October 8, 2015, to mark the submission to the government and to allow public figures to demonstrate their support for the next generation of Quebec farmers;

WHEREAS the aspirations and needs of the next generation of farmers, as well as the entirety of the related proposed strategic measures, have been presented by the FRAQ and by the Union in a submission made to the minister of agriculture in conjunction with that gathering;

WHEREAS these proposals are complementary to the collective marketing tools and the income insurance program that form the crucial basis of the provincial agricultural sector and its sustainability;

SUCCESSION: A PRIORITY (CONTINUED)

WHEREAS the costs incurred by the 25% discount applied to young farmers' contributions to the farm income stabilization program (ASRA) are covered solely by producers insured under the program;

WHEREAS Mr. Pronovost had to submit his recommendations to Minister Paradis in fall 2015;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The premier and MAPAQ**

- To maintain a record of land-transfer transactions in order to create a detailed profile of agricultural property ownership, and is to implement a mechanism to track transactions;
- To restrict transactions to 100 hectare per year;
 - in regards to this 100-hectare annual transaction limit, to implement specific measures pertaining to intergenerational transfers and corporate consolidation;
- To assign a strong governmental mandate and designated funds to the Fonds d'investissement pour la relève agricole (FIRA) to allow the organization to take on a social rather than solely economic mission, that is, the renewal of agriculture;
- To work towards creating a refundable tax credit for interest paid on asset transfer loans related to farm succession, whether for family transfers or otherwise, for all FIRA transactions;
- To support the development of a provincial land bank, aligned with the needs of young farmers through a close relationship with FIRA;
- To inventory, tax, and regulate unused and fallow lands in order to make them available to producers;
- To launch and fund a public-education program on provincial transfer planning, if this approach is deemed to be efficient;
- To make available Regional County Municipality (MRC) data from the 2011 "Portrait de la relève agricole au Québec" provincial agricultural succession profile;

SUCCESSION: A PRIORITY (CONTINUED)

- **The Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ)**
 - To adopt subsidy criteria and to increase set-up subsidy amounts in collaboration with the Union and the FRAQ;
 - To extend the applicable 25% young farmer ASRA contribution discount, to five years, and to absorb the costs incurred by this modification to the program;
 - To promote the lessor/seller formula and to tie it to FIRA transaction;
- **Its affiliates**
 - To support the FRAQ by, among other things, reiterating the proposals made in its submission to the government in political and media communications;
- **The Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA)**
 - To undertake discussions within subsidiary organizations on the implementation of tools to regulate land rental agreements, such as a contract template.



11. TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP: EFFICIENT IMPORT CONTROL AND COMPENSATION

WHEREAS Canada reached a free-trade agreement with its Trans-Pacific Partnership partners on October 5, 2015;

WHEREAS the economic impact of the aforementioned agreement will entail additional costs for all producers operating under supply management;

WHEREAS in the dairy sector, these concessions compound earlier allowances to the European Union under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement;

WHEREAS the federal government has announced compensation programs for producers for loss of revenue due to market access concessions, and for quota value loss;

WHEREAS the loss of revenue compensation program will only partially compensate producers for lost income, and it is very unlikely that the quota value loss compensation program will be of any use since supply management will be maintained;

WHEREAS the \$1.5 billion pledged to the quota value loss compensation program would be better invested if it were distributed among those producers who maintain production on the basis of existing quotas in proportion with lost market share;

WHEREAS, furthermore, in announcing the TPP and compensation programs, the federal government also broached the question of imports, an essential aspect of the implementation of supply management;

WHEREAS in this regard the Conservative government had indicated that it would intensify anti-circumvention laws to strengthen border controls. In the poultry sector, the Conservative government had promised to require the certification of spent fowl imports and to prevent importers from circumventing import regulations by adding packets of sauce to chicken products. The Conservative government had also pledged to exclude supply management products from the Canadian Duty Deferral Program;

WHEREAS anti-circumvention measures announced by the government in order to strengthen border controls for the dairy industry do little to reassure producers, and further information is required. More detail is also required in regards to import controls for milk protein concentrate imports, both in regards to tariffs and to non-dairy milk ingredient limits as per cheese composition standards;

WHEREAS one of the objectives of the future mandate of the Liberal party was to defend the interests of Canada during free-trade negotiations, including in regards to supply management, as promised in a letter dated October 15, 2015 to those affected by supply management on;

***TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP: EFFICIENT IMPORT CONTROL AND
COMPENSATION (CONTINUED)***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The new Canadian government**
 - To definitively and permanently close dairy and poultry tariff loopholes in order to put a stop to the free and unregulated import and use of these products;
 - To turn the Quota Value Guarantee Program into a lost market share compensation program;
 - To ensure positive follow-up to the requests outlined in the first months of its mandate;
- **The Quebec government**
 - To exercise its leadership vis-à-vis the federal government in order for Canada to quickly document, disseminate, and implement the entirety of the measures outlined in this resolution;
 - To ensure the collaboration of the other provinces.

12. STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, AND CANADIAN MARKET ACCESS FOR IMPORTED PRODUCTS

WHEREAS Canada is signatory to various trade agreements under international trade law;

WHEREAS an increasing number of imported food products are sold in Canada alongside Canadian products;

WHEREAS, over time, Quebec and Canada have created certification standards for production, food safety, biosecurity and animal welfare, environmental standards, and workplace standards, and have implemented traceability systems;

WHEREAS these regulations and measures, as well as increasing the workload of producers, often also entail additional production costs, without market compensation or acknowledgement from the food-distribution chain;

WHEREAS many food imports have been produced according to standards that differ from Canadian standards, which inequality affords imported products a competitive advantage;

WHEREAS the new government of Canada has vowed, in a letter to the agricultural sector, to review current import standards, regulations and practices, and that one of their campaign promises was the increase of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) budget by \$80 million over four years, in order to increase local and import food inspections;

WHEREAS consumer demands are increasing in regards to production methods, quality standards, food safety, and animal well-being

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The new Canadian government**
 - To clearly define the standards with which imported products must comply in order to gain access to the Canadian market, and to ensure importers are aware of these requirements;

STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, AND CANADIAN MARKET ACCESS FOR IMPORTED PRODUCTS

- To see to the implementation of all legislative and regulatory measures as well as any monitoring mechanisms required to ensure compliance with these standards and to allocate the resources required;
- To ensure producers benefit from economic advantages on imported products equally with other agri-food industry partners;
- To ensure that the increase to the AAFC budget is used to increase the number of import inspections;
- To report annually on actions taken toward this end;
- To clarify the notion of reciprocity of standards in agriculture and agri-food to ensure it is clearly defined under international trade law during negotiations;
- **The Government of Quebec**
 - To work in collaboration with the federal government to define standards and to establish mechanisms to ensure compliance;
- **The new Canadian government and the Government of Quebec**
 - To promote the quality of Canadian and Quebec agricultural products, notably by informing the public of the content and reach of Canadian and Quebec standards;
 - To apply necessary means to ensure reciprocity of standards on imports, and improved border controls;
 - To deny entry to all products and food by-products not in compliance with Canadian standards;
 - To avoid imposing measures that cannot be applied reciprocally on producers, or to compensate producers financially for required upgrades.

13. RENEWING THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNAL TRADE

WHEREAS the provincial and territorial premiers of Canada have undertaken the renewal of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT);

WHEREAS, since the AIT came into effect in 1995, 14 modifications have been made to the text of the agreement, including major modifications in the chapter on agricultural and agri-food products, in November 2010, and the addition of an explanatory note on the field and the reach of this chapter, and federate 2015;

WHEREAS, in 2010, the chapter on agricultural products, from the preceding version with approximately 10 measures (including the use of colouring agents in margarine, butter-margarine combination products, and dairy substitutes, which affected Quebec in particular), became a text addressing all technical measures, excluding supply management and marketing-board measures;

WHEREAS the February 2015 explanatory note further detailed exclusions for the chapter on agricultural and agri-food products, and aimed to protect supply management and collective marketing in relation to changes to the chapter on dispute resolution. These modifications allow for the application of sanctions for noncompliance in cases of disagreements between persons and governments;

WHEREAS it is necessary to protect supply management and the entire authority of the Act Respecting the Marketing of Agricultural, Food and Fish Products (the Act) in order to ensure the sustainability of the Quebec agricultural model;

WHEREAS Quebec farmers often face more stringent production standards (e.g., environmental, animal well-being, etc.) than those in effect in other Canadian provinces, which entails higher production costs. Quebec producers are therefore often less competitive nationally;

RENEWING THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNAL TRADE (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Government of Quebec**
 - To maintain its authority under the AIT to prohibit the marketing of products from other provinces not in compliance with Quebec standards (higher production costs resulting from reciprocity of standards, notably in regards to animal well-being and environmental standards);
 - To implement financial compensation to ensure the competitiveness of Quebec farms in cases where Quebec standards are more rigorous than those in effect in other provinces;
 - To ensure that measures related to supply management and collective marketing are maintained, including the Act in its entirety, under the new AIT;
- **The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA)**
 - To pursue the Committee's work on domestic trade, examining regulations that hinder inter-provincial and -territorial agricultural trade, while maintaining the entirety of the standards and regulations governing supply management and collective marketing.

14. CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS the risks faced by Canadian farms are constantly changing, and international competition, while it offers opportunities for growth, also exposes Canadian farms to additional risks and costs;

WHEREAS the rapid evolution of consumer demands and requirements necessitates adaptations, and therefore investments, on the part of agricultural producers, for which there are no market returns;

WHEREAS the growth of Canadian farms depends on economic stability and access to efficient risk-management programs;

WHEREAS significant cuts to federal agricultural support programs during the transition between the strategic Growing Forward and Growing Forward 2 frameworks left the programs unable to respond to the needs of the sector, putting Canadian farms at a disadvantage internationally;

WHEREAS AgriStability, previously a pillar of agricultural support programs, has been abandoned by producers since significant cuts to coverage turned the program into a major-crisis intervention program;

WHEREAS AgriInvest helps support adjustments required to respond to market demands and to foster proactive risk-mitigation investments by producers, ultimately benefiting the Canadian economy;

WHEREAS the next Canadian strategic agricultural framework is currently under consideration;

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The new Canadian government**
- **To prioritize the reestablishment of the coverage offered under the AgriStability program to that in effect prior to Growing Forward 2, that is:**
 - eliminate provisions limiting the reference margin, and explore alternatives to limit payments to for-profit corporations, while ensuring that eligible expenses are covered for businesses operating at a loss;
 - re-establish previous payment trigger limits in order to trigger payments when margins in the program year fall below 85% of a company's historical reference margins;
- To increase the maximum base contribution rate to the AgrilInvest program to 4.5% of eligible adjusted net sales, and to establish an annual maximum of \$100,000 for disbursements;
- To clearly define AgriRecovery measures, such as crisis-response measures, and to separate them from other risk-management programs in order to avoid cuts to or the recovery of crisis-management payments due to program overlap;
- To modify the AgriRecovery program in order to ensure that, in cases of extraordinary losses following a single event or recurring events that are not efficiently managed by other mechanisms, the program covers not only short-term impact, but also provides multi-year coverage;
- **The new Canadian government and the Government of Quebec**
 - To offer farmers more flexibility in withdrawing funds from AgrilInvest and Agri-Québec when these withdrawals are intended for productive business investments.

15. MAINTAINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF QUEBEC AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS the agriculture and agri-food sectors have been omitted from the Québec Economic Plan despite their contribution to the economy and their significance in terms of land occupancy across all the regions of Quebec;

WHEREAS farms contribute socially and economically to their communities notably in regards to community dynamics and to service maintenance;

WHEREAS a stable supply of locally produced products is key to ensuring the province's food sovereignty;

WHEREAS stability and predictability are key elements to support business investments, and the availability of efficient and reliable programs is the keystone of a stable and predictable business environment;

WHEREAS the noticeable consequences of the disengagement of the state in agriculture since 2010 have included, among other things, a marked decrease in the number of farms and, in certain sectors, a decrease in production volumes;

WHEREAS the FADQ has as its mission to support the development of the agricultural sector, by financing, among other means;

WHEREAS the FADQ has been subjected to repeated budget cuts since 2014;

WHEREAS certain production sectors are choosing not to participate in ASRA in order to sign up for Agri-Québec and Agri-Québec Plus;

WHEREAS the FDAQ Board of Directors has recommended the implementation of solutions presented in the final, February 2015, report of the Quebec agriculture income security working group;

MAINTAINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF QUEBEC AGRICULTURE (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The government of Quebec**
 - To include agriculture and agri-food as priorities in the Québec Economic Plan;
 - To re-establish the FADQ and MAPAQ budgets to pre-2014 – 2015 levels in order to enable these bodies to respond to the needs of the agricultural sector;
 - To authorize the implementation of the recommendations made by the Quebec agriculture income security working group, notably:
 - increases to the Agri-Québec and Agri-Québec Plus, including margin recovery;
 - the restoration of joint plan research and promotion contributions in ASRA stabilized income calculations;
 - the creation of a two-pronged development support program: regional assistance; and development, transition, or sector projects;
 - To eliminate the recovery of cumulative linkages in those sectors falling under ASRA;
 - To extend Agri-Québec eligibility to production sectors under ASRA coverage, without restriction, as a measure equivalent to producer salary increases for management-related working hours;
 - To allow the FADQ to take on more risk in selecting agricultural financing projects, regardless of production sector;
 - To recognize the cost of environmental and animal well-being standards compliance in establishing production costs in order to allow sectors to remain competitive;
- **The Union**
 - To emphasize to government the crucial role of income security programs for the sustainability of the agricultural sector;
 - To advocate as necessary in order to advance the demands above.

16. CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS the crop insurance program (Programme d'assurance récolte) aims to protect producers from crop losses, following a risk assessment;

WHEREAS the protection offered by this program has not been regularly updated;

WHEREAS a majority of producers are dissatisfied with the level of coverage available;

WHEREAS, in 2014, despite the 4% growth of total insured value, the crop insurance program has seen an 11% decrease in participants, and 8% decrease in units insured since 2010;

WHEREAS, in certain sectors, producers are choosing specific risk protection (frost, hail, etc.) instead of multi-risk protection;

WHEREAS weather-related risks to agricultural producers are heightened by climate change;

WHEREAS changes to other provinces' crop-insurance programs and increased support to such programs in the United States may affect the competitiveness of Quebec farms in some production sectors;

WHEREAS the FADQ wishes to improve the crop insurance program;

CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The MAPAQ and the FADQ**

- To allocate the human and financial resources required to update and modernize the FADQ crop insurance program as per the expressed needs of producers' associations;

- **The FADQ**

- To implement protection plans that better meets the needs of agricultural businesses, and to ensure protection programs are kept up to date;
- To use a formula based on whichever is highest of market price or production cost to establish unit or crop replacement value;
- To provide general-education materials to producers to explain probable yield calculation methods;
- To inform each insured producer upon his or her registration or renewal of the importance of declaring yields at the end of the insurance year using a simple, efficient tool;
- To contact producers annually to record yields for each insured crop, or to use data from other income security programs in order to establish probable yields based on historical data that are as complete as possible;
- To increase by 50% the unit price used to determine compensation for organic producers, particularly for grain crops;
- To add organic production using farm-produced seeds to the list of insurable crops, on the condition of compliance with the seed production protocol (submitted to the FADQ in 2007);

- **The Union**

- To ensure that the crop insurance program adequately compensates producers for losses incurred.

17. CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM: COLLECTIVE PROTECTION FOR HAY

WHEREAS the number of operations and units insured between 2010 and 2014 has decreased by 20% due to producer dissatisfaction with available coverage, among other reasons;

WHEREAS the loss assessment method using weather derivatives to establish loss levels equivalent to those assessed by producers from specific regions poses a number of challenges, and that the situation has led to compensation payment adjustments;

WHEREAS important work has been carried out by the UPA-FADQ committee on collective crop insurance protection for hay to ensure producers are adequately compensated, and to improve the program;

WHEREAS a new loss assessment method will be in effect as of 2016, with increasingly personalized protection;

WHEREAS the modernization of the weather station network has led to a decrease in the number of stations, to the replacement of some by automated stations, and to a shift in the notion of station territory to reference stations;

WHEREAS it is important that the entirety of these changes to protection programs be validated in order to assess whether these modifications protect insured producers;

***CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM: COLLECTIVE PROTECTION FOR HAY
(CONTINUED)***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

• **The FADQ**

- To validate, through an independent external evaluation, the alignment of field data and loss estimates generated by the new method in order to ensure that the new method is accurately representative of production situations;
- To maintain the entirety of the control network to ensure that the new loss assessment method is accurately representative of production situations;
- To quickly review the price evaluation method for hay in order to take into account actual replacement and production costs;
- To allow the Union access to weather-station data as needed, notably to confirm loss assessment tables and protection program changes;
- To gather actual yield data annually from producers to confirm loss levels from assessment tables and from weather-station data;
- To analyze the opportunity of including compensation for risks incurred following a climate event, where justified;

• **The Union**

- To encourage producers to compile yield annually using a simple, efficient tool in order to submit this data to the organization or to the FADQ when necessary.

18. INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS income security programs aim to help businesses manage agriculture-related risks;

WHEREAS producers must be able to rely on efficient and reliable programs in order to maintain operations, adapt to change, and innovate;

WHEREAS the Agri programs are the main security mechanisms for those production sectors without supply management and not under ASRA;

WHEREAS the processing delays can reach up to 18 months, during which period shortfalls requiring payment triggers or withdrawals are not covered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The FADQ**
 - To process financial data submitted by producers quickly in order to accelerate the return to financial stability or the investments necessary;
 - To analyze the opportunity for a system allowing producers to benefit from payment advances;
 - To pay out compensation as interest when processing is delayed beyond a given threshold, for every program;
- **The Union**
 - To take steps necessary with the FADQ in order to allow the FADQ to reduce processing delays.



19. RENEWING PAFRAPD

WHEREAS discussions regarding the renewal of the designated producers' associations support program (Programme d'appui financier aux regroupements et aux associations de producteurs désignés – PAFRAPD; formerly CASINO) have been under way for five years. This program was first and foremost intended compensate agricultural producers for the expropriation of agricultural exhibition and fair casinos by Loto-Québec;

WHEREAS the previous government was committed to renewing the aforementioned program in its entirety;

WHEREAS the government set out annual renewals, the last of which expired on March 31, 2015, since when no new information has been released by MAPAQ to beneficiary groups;

WHEREAS this program is important to the survival of many producers' organizations and to the implementation of significant activities in the agricultural sector;

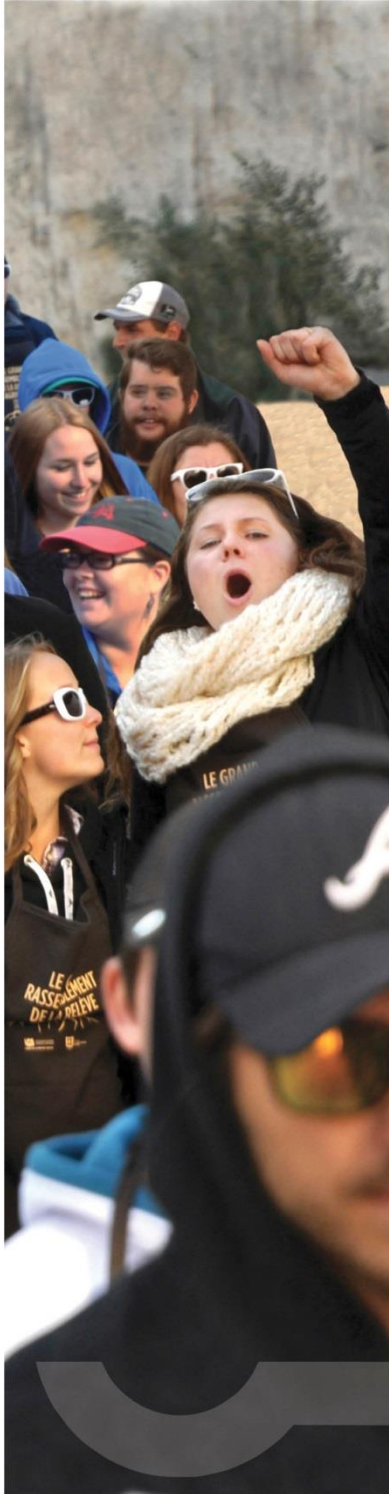
WHEREAS producers' organizations have had to cease activities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Government of Quebec**

- To announce PAFRAPD as quickly as possible, including budget adjustments for inflation;
- To include the transition budget equivalent to average disbursements over the preceding three years to beneficiary groups of the previous program, retroactively to April 1, 2015 until such a time as producers' organizations receive financial support under the new program;
- To ensure that the producers' organizations from whom agricultural fair and exhibition casinos were expropriated benefit from monies to support their operations;
- To ensure the program is accessible to all groups.





workshop 3

environment
and
land use

20. FARMLAND PROTECTION AND THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION DE PROTECTION DU TERRITOIRE AGRICOLE DU QUÉBEC

WHEREAS the Quebec land-use and farming protection program is more pertinent than ever given increasing pressure on limited territories, and given that the human population of Earth will soon reach 9 billion people;

WHEREAS the Act Respecting the Preservation of Agricultural Land and Agricultural Activities (LPTAA) is applied by the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec (CPTAQ), and that the role of the Commission must be strengthened, notably in regards to its decisional capacities;

WHEREAS the analysis of CPTAQ management must not be a pretext to call into question the pertinence of existing laws, but rather provide an occasion for elected officials to lead strong governmental action to protect the content of Quebec's pantry and the livelihood of its providers;

WHEREAS municipalities support practically every project in basic compliance, but does not assess these projects according to the 10 criteria of article 62, which constitutes a waste of CPTAQ resources where projects could undergo preliminary sorting at the municipal level;

WHEREAS the LPTAA includes all the tools required to support communities' long-term development, including in the regions;

WHEREAS due to requests for land exclusion, or for non-agricultural construction or expansion on agricultural territory and to coexistence issues, some LPTAA provisions must be strengthened to ensure increased protection of the territory and of activities practiced thereon;

WHEREAS, furthermore, government land-use and agricultural activity orientations by the Affaires municipales et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMOT) in being revised in collaboration with the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) under which municipal authorities operate in regards to land use;

WHEREAS in the instances of complaints from producers and of notices of order from CPTAQ, the sometimes excessively long processing times benefit the offending parties by allowing them to continue their activities with impunity;

FARMLAND PROTECTION AND THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION DE PROTECTION DU TERRITOIRE AGRICOLE DU QUÉBEC (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Government of Quebec**

- To maintain and strengthen LPTAA provisions as well of the role of the CPTAQ to support the protection of agricultural land and activities;
- To modify the LPTAA in order to increase the requirements for applicants seeking absolute limits to agricultural zone expansion, and to require that these applicants meet residential, institutional, commercial, and industrial density targets as a prerequisite to any land-exclusion request or non-agricultural construction or expansion requests;
- To rectify those situations concerning vested (grandfathered) rights, which continue to contribute to non-agricultural construction;
- To implement tools allowing sanctions to be applied to municipal authorities who systematically approve all projects, even those not in compliance with and which indeed undermine the optimal use of CPTAQ resources;
- To increase CPTAQ financial and human resources, allowing the Commission to fully discharge its role, notably in processing applications and monitoring decisions to ensure the sustainability of agricultural-zoned areas and the development of agricultural activity;
- To support the role of the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) in any LPTAA capacity-building project;
- To allow CPTAQ to retain decisional authority rather than delegating authority to municipalities and MRCs;

FARMLAND PROTECTION AND THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION DE PROTECTION DU TERRITOIRE AGRICOLE DU QUÉBEC (CONTINUED)

- **The ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMOT) and the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)**
 - To include compliance with land-use tools adopted by municipal bodies (including land-use and development plans, and metropolitan land-use and development plans) in all future governmental land-use policies concerning agricultural territory and activities, including the obligation to respect healthy urban development management standards, the obligation to use space available within urban areas, and the obligation to guarantee the protection of current agricultural land;
 - To set density targets for urban and suburban areas in all future governmental land-use policies, and to structure these targets to ensure the profitability of infrastructure construction and maintenance.

21. FARM PROTECTION

WHEREAS farmers are facing a new set of municipal regulations, which are excessively limiting to the practice of agriculture;

WHEREAS contrary to popular belief, the LPTAA does not prevent municipalities from zoning agricultural activities in agricultural zones;

WHEREAS the 1996 agricultural act only conferred upon regional county municipalities (MRCs) the obligation to assess the regulatory compliance of this type of regulation in keeping with the primary usage of lands to agricultural ends as per the revised land-use plan;

WHEREAS once a land-use and development plan in compliance with government priorities comes into effect, the compliance of given regulations is assessed by the MRC council rather than by MAMOT, the ministry for municipal affairs and land use having no further approval authority;

WHEREAS the above situation favours the implementation of municipal regulations that are excessive and unreasonable for the practice of agriculture in agricultural zones;

WHEREAS in regards to coexistence between neighbours, immunity from prosecution for neighbourhood disturbances has been weakened by judicial decisions, and, for noise and dust disturbances, the law generally protects citizens against disturbances as soon as their well-being is potentially affected;

WHEREAS it may be appropriate to modify certain laws to strengthen the right to produce of agricultural operations in agricultural zones;

WHEREAS, despite the active involvement of the UPA in the proceedings related to the agricultural zone development plan (PDZA), which allows for some positive influence, the PDZA has no legal bearing and therefore can have no direct impact on municipal regulations;

FARM PROTECTION (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Government of Quebec**

- To modify certain laws to guarantee and strengthen the production rights of agricultural operations in agricultural and forestry zones, for instance:
- to modify the Act Respecting Land use Planning and Development (LAU) in order to allow agricultural producers to contest before the Municipal Commission the MRC decision to bring into compliance regulations adopted by a municipality where such regulation is considered by our organization as being noncompliant;
- to strengthen LPTAA article 79.1 by ensuring that MRCs modify new plans specifically to delineate municipal zoning authority in agricultural zones and to restrict this authority to flagrant coexistence issues;
- to specify government priorities in regards to the authority to adopt production zoning regulations, in order to allow MAMOT, on MAPAQ advice, to refuse the implementation of plans that fail to define municipal zoning powers;
- to strengthen LPTAA provisions that guarantee the immunity of agricultural producers who work in compliance with recognized practices;
- to modify applicable legislative tools in order to limit the authority of municipalities to declare as nuisance legitimate agricultural activity conducted in compliance with recognized practices and civil adjustments for these activities practiced in compliance with its regulations;
- to limit municipal zoning powers in agricultural zones to LAU article 113, paragraph (3)..

22. FALLOW AND UNUSED LAND

WHEREAS agricultural zones in Quebec include over 100,000 hectares of fallow and unused land, a significant portion of which represents considerable agricultural potential;

WHEREAS these unused lands are a source of contamination for neighbouring fields through weeds and especially through species that may be harmful to agriculture and to public health (ragweed, water reeds, etc.);

WHEREAS these fallow lands are detrimental to economic development and to a dynamic local and regional agriculture;

WHEREAS these fallow lands have been abandoned and are therefore unavailable to the practice of agriculture;

WHEREAS the total arable land in the province of Quebec is less than 2%;

WHEREAS it is crucial to preserve agricultural heritage;

WHEREAS the Agricultural Operations Regulation (REA) has prohibited since 2004 the expansion of croplands within watersheds deemed to be degraded, and therefore that it is not possible to compensate for fallow land through the expansion of new croplands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

➤ **The Government of Quebec**

- To apply the provisions required for MAPAQ and MAMOT to establish incentives encouraging the cultivation of fallow or unused lands under a distinct assessment system, as a surcharge on unused land or a tax credit for renewed agricultural use, or to encourage the rental of unused land;
- To apply these provisions to all landowners in conjunction with pertinent government departments, notably the ministry of transport;
- To take the necessary steps vis-à-vis MDELCC in order to allow fallow or unused land to be restored to agricultural use, independently of existing croplands;

➤ **Regional county municipalities (MRC)**

- To apply the provisions required to protect agricultural heritage;
- To include a specific action plan in the PDCA.



23. WATERWAY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS waterway management is critical for the drainage of agricultural land, which in turn is crucial to the maintenance of agronomic and environmental conditions;

WHEREAS producers are assessing the management needs of the waterways on their land based on their harvested yields;

WHEREAS the complexity of waterway-management issues and the numerous stakeholders involved (management by MRCs, the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques [MDDELCC, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans [DFO] and the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs [MFFP]);

WHEREAS the requirements (engineering plans, permits, etc.) for the completion of work entail considerable fees and processing time;

WHEREAS the development of a memorandum of understanding between the MRCs, MDDELCC, and MFFP, delegating to the MRCs the authority and responsibility to oversee waterway management, would considerably simplify the management process and strengthen the MRCs' jurisdictional confidence;

WHEREAS in certain instances, the fees related to waterway-management work are divided by watershed, and the complexity of the cost-division calculations requires additional time and entails delays;

WHEREAS farmers working in riparian zones are affected by inconveniences arising from waterway-management issues;

WHEREAS all citizens benefit from waterway-management work;

WATERWAY MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **MRCs, the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), MAPAQ and the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP)**
 - To agree on a protocol delegating to the municipal level the authority, the duty and the responsibility to ensure waterway management without requiring MDDELCC authorization;
 - That the above protocol involve a simple and uniform procedure to simplify the process and requirements involved in carrying out waterway-management work;
 - That waterway-management work take place as quickly as possible following the submission of an application;
- **The Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA)**
 - Pressure municipal bodies in order for waterway-management costs to be covered by a waterway fund within the budgets of municipalities or MRCs.

24. WATERWAY MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ON LAC-SAINT-PIERRE SHORELANDS

WHEREAS agriculture has been practised in the Lac-Saint-Pierre floodplain for centuries;

WHEREAS farmers have acquired, worked, and maintained this lands for many generations;

WHEREAS agricultural and wildlife activity have always coexisted at lake Saint-Pierre;

WHEREAS there are numerous waterways on the shores of the lake, the springs of which are largely outside the area;

WHEREAS the siltation of these waterways is such that proper drainage is impossible;

WHEREAS the poor drainage of croplands is damaging to harvest (lower yields), as well as to the physical integrity of the soil (increased risk of compaction);

WHEREAS heavy siltation impedes the free movement of fish;

WHEREAS these prejudices imperil the financial health of the farming operations affected, and even in some cases their very existence;

WHEREAS most if not all of the waterways that are the subject of maintenance requests have previously been subject to some management work (subject to fees);

WHEREAS the management of area waterways would help improve the connections between the lake and the shorelands;

***WATERWAY MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ON
LAC-SAINT-PIERRE SHORELANDS (CONTINUED)***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

➤ **MDDELCC, MFFP, DFO and MAPAQ**

- To recognize the current and historic importance of agriculture on the shores of lake Saint-Pierre as well as the rights of access and ownership of those who work these lands;
- To recognize that lake Saint-Pierre floodplain waterway management is required to re-establish connections between the lake and its tributaries as well as to ensure adequate drainage and to maintain the use of adjacent agricultural land;
- To define a waterway management intervention protocol to replace the current plan to carry out an impact assessment, the new protocol privileging best practices to bridge the various concerns;
- To recognize the urgency of action in this matter;

➤ **MRCs concerned**

- To manage lake Saint-Pierre tributary waterways.

25. WETLAND PROTECTION AND ECOLOGICAL GOODS AND SERVICES

WHEREAS wetlands and riparian bands as defined in the river, shore and floodplain preservation policy are environmentally significant natural ecosystems and therefore subject to preservation regulations;

WHEREAS many wetlands and most riparian bands are located on property owned by agricultural and forest producers;

WHEREAS a study funded by the OURANOS consortium assessed the monetary value of the environmental benefits provided by wetlands at several thousand dollars per hectare per year;

WHEREAS the preservation of these areas have a negative impact on the production revenues of farms and forest producers;

WHEREAS wetlands play an important role in the hydrological regulation of watersheds and help supply the water table and rivers that in turn supply aqueducts;

WHEREAS wetlands and riparian bands produce environmental benefits to the population as a whole;

WHEREAS conservation areas and natural reserves are not subject to taxation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **MAMOT, the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM) and the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ)**
 - To exempt wetlands from true ecological value and riparian bands from property taxes, given the preservation obligations applied to both;
- **Municipalities and the Government of Quebec**
 - To compensate agricultural and forest tree producers for the environmental benefits generated by wetlands and riparian bands on their properties.



26. ADMINISTRATIVE MONETARY PENALTIES (AMP) AND HANDLING OF UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS

WHEREAS agricultural operations are contacted by MDDELCC inspectors following complaints from neighbours;

WHEREAS, in some cases, these claims are unsubstantiated, result from arguments between neighbours, or are made with ill intent;

WHEREAS these sometimes repetitive complaints are more akin to harassment, and may be morally and financially prejudicial;

WHEREAS the MDDELCC has adopted a declaration of service to citizens by which the ministry pledges to follow up on every complaint received;

WHEREAS more rigorous process for dealing with unsubstantiated claims is required;

WHEREAS AMP amounts are determined by the law and its regulations;

WHEREAS these amounts have been determined by category of transgression and based on whether the party involved is a natural or legal person;

WHEREAS the fines established for a legal person are four times greater than that for a natural person;

WHEREAS, under these conditions, an incorporated farm would be subject to the same fine as a multinational corporation for an infraction deemed to be in the same category;

WHEREAS in agriculture, most companies generate revenues no greater than the average salaried employee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **MDDELCC**
 - To develop a mechanism to more efficiently process and dismiss unsubstantiated claims;
 - To review AMP amounts in order to assess incorporated agricultural operations as natural rather than legal persons;
 - To favour processes that support producers rather than relying on a coercive or punitive approach.



27. ACREAGE PRESERVATION WITHIN DEGRADED WATERSHEDS

WHEREAS the Agricultural Operations Regulation (REA) has for over 10 years prohibited the expansion of croplands within watersheds deemed to be degraded, that is, those containing in excess of 0.03 mg/L of phosphorus;

WHEREAS according to REA article 5, the MDDELCC minister was to submit a report at the latest on June 15, 2005, and every five years thereafter, on the application of the Regulation, and to modify provisions to apply emerging scientific and technical knowledge, none of which was ever done;

WHEREAS this prohibition aims to limit the presence of phosphorus from agricultural sources in waterways;

WHEREAS for the past 10 years, considerable agricultural land has been lost to other uses, notably urbanization;

WHEREAS the development of other sectors (residential, commercial, industrial) is not restricted, although other sectors also contribute to phosphorus in waterways and although the urbanization of agricultural land further degrades water quality;

WHEREAS municipal regulations prohibiting the cutting of trees, whether to increase croplands, to move croplands as permitted by REA article 50.4, or to plant greenery as permitted by REA article 50.3;

WHEREAS the population is increasing and with it demand for agricultural products;

WHEREAS the REA must be modified to include provisions allowing for the replacement of agricultural land lost since 2004 as well future losses;

WHEREAS MAPAQ and CPTAQ must work together to compile an inventory of agricultural land lost to other uses;

WHEREAS MDELCC has recognized the importance of modifying the REA in order to maintain current croplands;

***ACREAGE PRESERVATION WITHIN DEGRADED WATERSHEDS
(CONTINUED)***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

• **MDDELCC**

- To apply REA article 5 by producing the required reports on degraded watersheds;
- To modify the REA in order to replace croplands lost to other uses, including reforestation, by opening new agricultural lands;
- To take the steps necessary to include new provisions in the REA in 2016 to ensure current croplands are maintained;

➤ **MAPAQ and the Commission de protection du territoire agricole (CPTAQ)**

- To collaborate on the maintenance of croplands by providing data in order to take inventory and record the value of areas lost to other uses;

➤ **MAMOT and MDDELCC**

- To align municipal regulations with the REA in regards to the cutting down of trees;

➤ **Municipal authorities (FQM, UMQ, MRC)**

- To support and to convey the demands above to MDDELCC;

➤ **UPA**

- To continue to apply pressure on the authorities in order to modify regulatory provisions prohibiting cropland expansion.

28. MANURE STACKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS article 9.1 of the Agricultural Operations Regulation (REA) specifies that producers may make use of solid manure stacks for field storage under certain conditions;

WHEREAS manure stack storage is commonly in use in cattle production;

WHEREAS this technique takes into account the overall efficiency of manure management (storage, transport, and spreading);

WHEREAS numerous studies have confirmed the agri-environmental efficiency of manure stacks;

WHEREAS producers wish to use this storage technique for construction or expansion projects;

WHEREAS securing environmental authorizations for manure stacks is difficult given producers preference for this storage technique;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

➤ **MDDELCC**

- To cease the imposition of additional constraints to existing regulation on construction or expansion projects involving manure stacks.



29. A PHYTOSANITARY STRATEGY FOR QUEBEC AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS the 2011 – 2021 Quebec plant health strategy (Stratégie phytosanitaire québécoise en agriculture – SPQA), in partnership with MDDELCC, MAPAQ, the ministère de la Santé et des services sociaux (MSSS) and UPA, has been adopted;

WHEREAS the objective of the strategy is to increase the use of integrated pest management and reduce the health and environmental risks linked to pesticide use while ensuring the profitability of agricultural operations;

WHEREAS SPQA partners have set a performance target of a 25% health and environmental risk reduction by 2021 compared to the 2006, 2007, and 2008 reference years;

WHEREAS MDELCC has published numerous water-quality monitoring studies showing the presence of pesticides in many Quebec waterways;

WHEREAS following the most recent pesticide sales report, MDELCC announced new regulations to restrict usage;

WHEREAS producers must protect their crops against insects, diseases and weeds, to which end they require diverse, efficient, and economically competitive tools;

WHEREAS to reduce the risks linked to the use of pesticides, alternative solutions must be available, as well as investments in research, knowledge transfer, and professional support to producers;

WHEREAS the UPA has for years called for the renewal of the joint action plan on agri-environment and peaceful coexistence, which should include means of reaching those pesticide-use risk-reduction objectives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

• MDDELCC

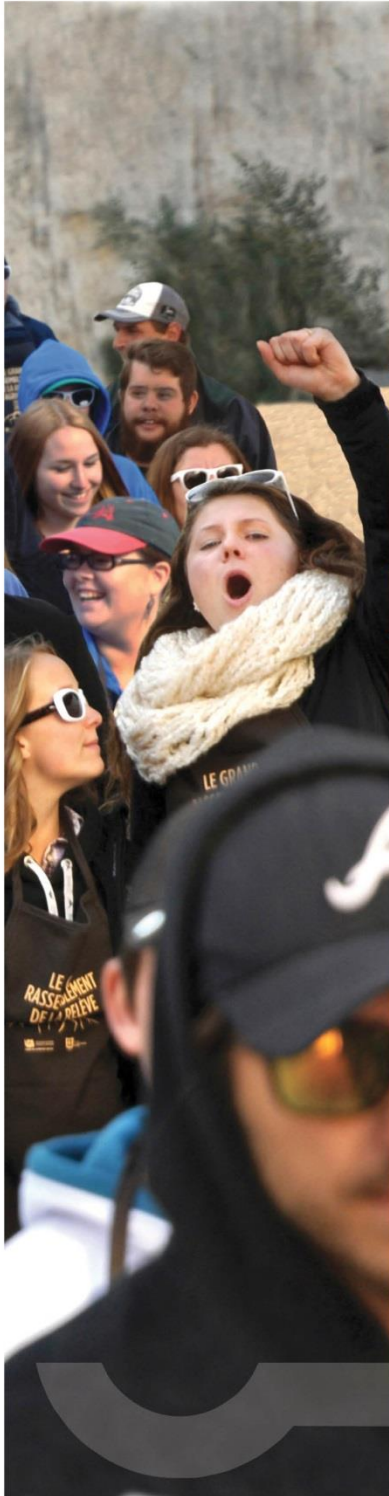
- To exempt those sectors with a joint strategy like the SPQA and targeted by the farm plant protection plan from proposed new regulations under the Quebec pesticide strategy (Stratégie québécoise sur les pesticides);
- To exempt agricultural producers from measures for which Quebec will be unable to require reciprocity from other provinces and countries, and to base health and environmental risk and impact assessments on scientific principles and internationally recognized risk analysis procedures;
- To rely on joint SPQA actions and avoid any measures likely to increase administrative burdens, risks or costs to producers;

To base health and environmental risk and impact assessments on scientific principles and internationally recognized risk analysis procedures;

A PHYTOSANITARY STRATEGY FOR QUEBEC AGRICULTURE (CONTINUED)

➤ MAPAQ and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

- To increase SPQA funding, particularly for recurring supplementary investment costs to producers, in order for the SPQA to offer the means of reaching established risk reduction objectives;
- To harness the work of centres for expertise and centres for technical support notably in order to foster the development of scientific expertise in each plant-production sector, the consolidation of existing tools, and the improvement of consulting services;
- To ensure producers have access to screening and integrated pest management services;
- To include representatives from plant-production sectors on the various SPQA monitoring committees;
- To advocate to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency in order to accelerate the approval process for low-risk, high-performance pesticides;
- To renew the joint action plan on the agri-environment and peaceful coexistence, notably in order to reach an agreement on action recommendations to reduce risks linked to pesticide use;
- To recognize agricultural products produced using integrated management techniques;
- To request the adoption of production standards for foreign agricultural product imports comparable to those in place in Quebec.



workshop 4

agricultural programs and policies





30. IMPROVING FOREST PRODUCERS' BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS there has been an economic recovery in the wood processing sector;

WHEREAS the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) wishes to invest in timber from private forests;

WHEREAS private-forest logging is tied to the quality of forest producers' business environment;

WHEREAS there have been several indicators of this business environment's decline over the last 10 years, including more complex municipal regulations, increased property taxes on woodlots, the worsening tax treatment of forestry income, lower timber prices, greater competition from public-forest operations, decreased forest management budgets and fewer forestry advisors;;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMOT)**
 - To transfer regulatory power over tree felling and forest cover protection entirely to the regional county municipalities (RCMs) in order to make regulation, regulatory interpretation and regulatory control consistent across the territory;
 - To amend the *Act respecting municipal taxation* to allow municipalities to adopt a separate taxation rate for woodlots under forest management;
- **The Ministère des Finances**
 - To abolish the tax on forestry operations;

IMPROVING FOREST PRODUCERS' BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- To simplify the eligibility criteria of the property tax refund program for forest producers which allows for a refund when forest development expenses are less than the property tax amount;
- To set up a silviculture savings and investment fund that will enable farm and forest producers to shelter from tax part of their forestry income from roundwood sales and to use that income to fund forest development work on their property in following years;
- **The MFFP**
 - To reduce the amount of timber from public forests that is on the market when timber from private forests is available, in accordance with the notion of residual volumes set out in the *Sustainable Forest Development Act*;
 - To maintain a \$40 million contribution to the programs administered by the regional agencies promoting private forests, and to guarantee this financial contribution for the next three years;
 - To support these requests before other relevant departments, both at the provincial and federal levels.

31. SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLLECTIVE ADVISORY SERVICES

WHEREAS collaborative organizations, defined as any unaffiliated advisory organizations that are administered by farmers—including the Quebec agro-environmental advisory clubs (clubs-conseils en agroenvironnement), the Quebec agricultural advisory groups (groupes conseils agricoles) and the Quebec regional centres for farm settlement (centres régionaux d'établissement en agriculture)—have contributed significantly to agricultural business development by responding to producers' specific needs;

WHEREAS these organizations:

- ensure active association among farmers throughout Quebec and create networks that are essential for sharing expertise at the local, regional and provincial levels;
- are at the centre of the collective advisory services that aim to spread knowledge throughout the farm community (information and training days, field demonstrations, technology transfer, group analyses, agronomic trials, watershed projects, etc.) and that have real benefits for agricultural businesses;
- offer broad expertise tailored to the new challenges of farming and support the development of new, efficient services;
- therefore contribute to improving the overall productivity and performance of agricultural businesses and ensure that these businesses survive and are handed down to future generations;

WHEREAS the 2013–2018 advisory service program known as the Programme services-conseils (PSC) encourages advisory services provided directly to individual producers, to the detriment of collaborative organizations' development;

WHEREAS it is important that advisors are supported by centres of expertise, partners in the development of the agricultural sector;

WHEREAS the future of the agro-environmental advisory clubs is uncertain because of the 2013 implementation of the PSC and the lack of funding for collective advisory services;

WHEREAS certain organizations will have to terminate their activities before 2018 because of accumulated deficits and lack of funding;

***SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLLECTIVE ADVISORY SERVICES
(CONTINUED)***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA)**
 - To support the development of unaffiliated collective advisory services which are managed and administered by farmers;
 - To preserve the expertise and knowledge developed through collaborative organizations and the sustainability of high-quality, competitively priced collective advisory services;
 - To ensure partnership between the various provincial groups within the collaborative organization network in order to foster closer ties between them and achieve greater political representation;
- **The Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)**
 - To provide the support needed to maintain and develop collective advisory services for the next PSC so that equivalent unaffiliated services are available throughout Quebec;
 - To increase funding to centres of expertise which promote knowledge development and knowledge transfer to advisors and agricultural businesses;
 - To limit advisors’ administrative responsibilities, so they can carry out their intended role of supporting farmers;
 - To, for the last two years of the PSC, make up for the decreased activity of the agro-environmental advisory clubs so that the collaborative system survives until the agreement is renewed.

32. ESTABLISHING AN ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES

WHEREAS imports account for 66% of the Canadian organic products market and half of these imports come from the US;

WHEREAS Canadian and Quebec organic production must be adequately supported to ensure parity and competitiveness with our US counterparts;

WHEREAS the United States Congress launched the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program in 2002 and has continued to support this program;

WHEREAS this program reimburses 75% of businesses' organic certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 per business, and whereas under the 2014 Farm Bill, the US has allocated \$57.5 million to this program;

WHEREAS a similar measure in Quebec and Canada would help increase organic production by encouraging producers to maintain or gain formal organic certification, which would therefore raise the number of certified businesses and acreages officially in organic production;

WHEREAS this measure would have a significant impact on small- and medium-sized agricultural businesses for which certification costs are a major expense;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The provincial and federal governments**
 - To establish an organic certification cost share program for agricultural businesses;
 - To offer, at minimum, the same benefits as those in the equivalent Farm Bill program.



33. MUNICIPAL ASSESSEMENT AND FARM PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROGRAM (PCTFA)

WHEREAS since 2010 the average value of farmland has doubled, which has transferred the tax burden to agricultural immovables;

WHEREAS the increased land values make certain farms ineligible for the PCTFA, since they no longer meet the criteria of \$5 of gross revenue per \$100 of assessment;

WHEREAS the PCTFA's 5% increase will soon no longer be enough to cover the increased expenses related to growing land values;

WHEREAS the report of the Robillard Ongoing Program Review Committee examines the relevance of the PCTFA;

WHEREAS since 2007 municipalities have been able to apply a separate tax rate for agricultural immovables which enables fairer distribution of the tax burden;

WHEREAS municipalities apply the separate tax rate optionally and infrequently (in 2014, 13 municipalities applied the separate tax rate out of the 357 with the power to do so), which shows their weak interest in maintaining fair taxation between agricultural and other categories of immovables;

WHEREAS the UPA has looked at several avenues for improving the PCTFA;

WHEREAS assessing farmland solely based on unrelated party transactions, which are often expansion projects, results in an over-assessment of the land;

WHEREAS the assessment of farmland value is based on the average value of transactions, and whereas this average excludes the value of related party transactions, which value generally takes into account agronomic value;

WHEREAS the 2005 agreement between the government and the municipalities includes the objective of slowing the tax burden increase for agricultural operations and the cost increase of the tax credit program;

MUNICIPAL ASSESSEMENT AND FARM PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROGRAM (PCTFA) (CONTINUED)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

• The MAPAQ

- To revise the PCTFA so that any producers who were made ineligible by failing to meet the criteria of \$5 of revenue per \$100 of assessment are no longer excluded from the program;
- To make certain that the PCTFA has the funds needed to continue its role and that other departments contribute to ensuring the program is adequately funded;

➤ The MAMOT and the MAPAQ

- To amend the *Act respecting municipal taxation* to require municipalities to apply a separate rate for agricultural immovables if they have the power to do so;
- To amend the *Act respecting municipal taxation* to include measures for easing the tax burden on agricultural businesses which are based on measures from other Canadian programs, such as those in Ontario and/or in other provinces or neighbouring states;
- To take the steps needed to revise property assessment methods, so they take into account related party transactions;

➤ The UPA and the MAPAQ

- To look at the possibility of capping municipal assessments at the value of the agronomic assessments;

➤ The UPA

- To, beginning in early 2016, speak and meet with the government, the relevant departmental ministers, the Fédération québécoise des municipalités and the Union des municipalités du Québec about revising municipal taxation in order to resolve the issue of the tax burden being transferred to the agricultural sector.

34. MUNICIPAL TAXATION – TARIFFING

WHEREAS an increasing number of municipalities tax agricultural immovables for services that are specific to residential sectors and are of little to no benefit to the agricultural sector;

WHEREAS municipalities can impose a tariff on owners, occupants or users in respect of a benefit derived from property, services or activities, and whereas municipalities can finance property, services or activities by means of a tariff rather than through a tax based on property value;

WHEREAS land and farm buildings use services to a different degree than residential properties, and whereas it would be fairer for municipalities to tariff services, in particular public safety, fire, recreational and waste management services;

WHEREAS metropolitan communities and RCMs establish aliquot shares that are billed to the municipalities in their territory based on property value, and whereas in rural municipalities this tax burden falls largely on agricultural immovables;

WHEREAS a total property value increase for agricultural immovables does not result in increased use of municipal, regional or metropolitan services, contrary to a total property value increase for all residential properties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

➤ **The MAMOT and MAPAQ**

- To adopt legislation that requires local municipalities to place a tariff on owners, occupants or users for identified services, such as metropolitan and recreational services, infrastructure, fire services, the services of the Sûreté du Québec and equipment of a supralocal nature;
- To adopt legislation that requires metropolitan communities and RCMs to establish aliquot shares and their payment by municipalities using a factor other than basic property value (owners, occupants or users).



35. BIOSECURITY OF LIVESTOCK FARMS

WHEREAS implementing farm biosecurity measures is vital for controlling disease and for managing and appropriately using antimicrobials;

WHEREAS professional oversight, e.g., support from veterinarians, is important;

WHEREAS research on disease prevalence, or the number of cases of a disease at a given moment, is useful for assessing the care required;

WHEREAS the MAPAQ announced its intention to withdraw from certain animal health programs and has asked industry to take over;

WHEREAS Amélioration de la santé animale au Québec (ASAQ), the Quebec program to improve animal health, will end on March 31, 2016;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The MAPAQ and the Government of Quebec**
 - To provide technical and financial support to animal production operations in implementing a biosecurity strategy;
 - To conduct disease prevalence research as needed to obtain a clear picture of the situation and to develop recommendations for optimal control strategies;
 - To ensure the ASAQ program is renewed for April 1, 2016.



36. VETERINARY DRUGS

WHEREAS few veterinary drugs are approved in Canada for minor species (calves, sheep, goats, rabbits, etc.);

WHEREAS this market is of little interest to pharmaceutical companies;

WHEREAS several veterinary drugs are approved for the major food-producing species (cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys) which have maximum residue limits (MRLs) considered safe for human consumption;

WHEREAS minor species under intensive production experience health problems that can limit productivity and viability;

WHEREAS several veterinary drugs are approved for minor species in other countries with which we trade (e.g., European Union countries, Japan, New Zealand);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **Health Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Veterinary Drugs**

Directorate

- To assist industry in appropriately using veterinary drugs in minor species, so that residue limits are less than or equal to the generally accepted safe limits;
- To promote a simplified approval process for minor use, minor species veterinary drugs that have already been approved in Canada for another species;
- To recognize the work of other countries that have already approved certain veterinary drugs for minor species;
- To develop simplified approval processes for veterinary drugs.



37. CONTROLLING INVASIVE PLANTS

WHEREAS inadequate control of certain invasive plants—including giant hogweed, common water reed, Japanese knotweed, bedstraw and ragweed—can seriously affect crops, e.g., by obstructing drains and lowering yields, as well as people, e.g., in cases of ragweed allergy or reaction to giant hogweed;

WHEREAS these plants grow along the sides of paths, roads, streets, railways, power lines and ditches as well as on vacant or unused land;

WHEREAS in certain environments these plants contribute to the destruction of fragile habitats and habitats of ecological interest;

WHEREAS, as has been the case for several years, ditch maintenance is no longer done along the Canadian National (CN) railway, and whereas the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) no longer always cuts back plant growth along the highways;

WHEREAS controlling these plants is currently the responsibility of RCMs' municipalities, in the case of municipal land; of owners, including rail companies, in the case of private lots; and of the MTQ, in the case of the ditches along major roads;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **The Government of Quebec**
 - To coordinate efforts to effectively control invasive plants and thereby prevent the damage they cause;
- **The Government of Quebec, the RCMs, CN and the municipalities that own railways**
 - To work toward quickly implementing a joint strategy to eradicate invasive plants;
 - To effectively coordinate efforts prioritizing the eradication of giant hogweed.



38. DAMAGE CAUSED BY WILDLIFE AND POPULATION CONTROL

WHEREAS biodiversity may be threatened when a species is hyperabundant;

WHEREAS the population management strategies for several wild animal species should be changed to take into account the damage these species' cause to agricultural businesses;

WHEREAS economic loss has been greater in areas with a higher wildlife population density;

WHEREAS the presence of wild animals raises biosecurity issues for plant and animal production;

WHEREAS the control measures are not well suited to the agricultural sector, and whereas farmers are unfamiliar with certain species that attack flocks and herds;

WHEREAS regulation concerning the damage caused by certain wildlife species is a provincial responsibility, and whereas no specific compensation program for such damage exists;

WHEREAS registration in the random draw for a deer hunting licence must be made in the name of an individual and not in the name of a corporation, company or business;

WHEREAS only the person listed as owner on the municipal tax bill can register in the random draw mentioned above, and whereas this person's spouse and children cannot register in the draw;

WHEREAS several farmlands are held by corporations, companies and businesses;

WHEREAS the hunting and fishing associations participate in several issue tables;

***DAMAGE CAUSED BY WILDLIFE AND POPULATION CONTROL
(CONTINUED)***

. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

• **The MFFP**

- To improve the management of damage-causing populations (white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, coyotes, wolves, bears, raccoons, etc.) by using appropriate methods to reduce the numbers of these species, especially in areas of hyperabundance;
- To examine programs that exist outside of Canada for compensating plant and animal production loss, and to implement a compensation program in Quebec for wildlife species under the MFFP's responsibility;

• **The UPA and the MAPAQ**

- To pressure the MFFP to create a project development budget concerning protocols for controlling unwelcome wildlife species and concerning compensation for the damage these species cause, in particular given the lack of coverage for the first 20% of any damage suffered in the case of plant production;
- To pressure the relevant organizations (Société des établissements de plein air du Québec, etc.) to allow anyone associated with an agricultural business (member, shareholder, spouse, child) to register in the random draw (for white-tailed deer) open to property owners;
- To allow the hunting of female wild turkeys in the fall;
- To inform farmers about predator-control techniques and protocols and about regulation;

• **The hunting and fishing associations**

- To inform hunters about the damage and the consequences of losses caused by wild animals.

39. STRAY VOLTAGE THRESHOLDS

WHEREAS some electricity distributors have different standards for stray voltage than Hydro-Québec;

WHEREAS the current Hydro-Québec Standard C.26.01 concerning stray voltage has been in force since 1987, and whereas the standard gives an accepted 10-volt maximum neutral voltage on the distribution system;

WHEREAS this standard states that Hydro-Québec must reduce its contribution if neutral voltage exceeds 5 volts, since reaching or exceeding the 10-volt limit is possible during peak hours or when soil resistivity is high (e.g., in winter);

WHEREAS in Ontario the neutral voltage standard is also 10 volts, but there exists an additional threshold standard of 1 volt for contact voltage (the difference in voltage potential between two points that an animal can contact);

WHEREAS in Ontario, if the contact voltage is greater than 1 volt and if a test procedure shows that distributor contribution accounts for more than half of this voltage (0.5 volts), the distributor must take actions;

WHEREAS Hydro-Québec Standard C.26.01 does not include a threshold standard for contact voltage;

WHEREAS Hydro-Québec Standard C.26.01 should be updated to meet the highest standards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES:

- **Hydro-Québec**
 - To examine the North American neutral voltage standards and contact voltage threshold standards that apply to stray voltage;
 - To use existing work to update Standard C.26.01 so that it reflects the highest standards.





plenary



40. REGIME QUEBECOIS D'ASSURANCE PARENTALE

WHEREAS the Régime québécois d'assurance parentale (RQAP) is intended to provide financial support to parents upon the arrival of a new child, whether through birth or adoption;

WHEREAS the previous year's employment income is the factor that determines the amount of benefits paid under the RQAP;

WHEREAS young farmers often make significant investments in the initial years after starting their businesses;

WHEREAS in this context, the net revenue of new businesses is often zero or negative, while a declared income of over \$2,000 is required in order to be eligible;

WHEREAS when a new child arrives, young business owners generally cannot cease operations and do not have the means to hire labour to cover their business responsibilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL CONGRESS URGES

- The UPA
- To make the representations needed for the RQAP eligibility criteria to be modified such that they take into account the reality facing young farmers, and for the RQAP to provide income support upon the arrival of a new child based on the salary of semiskilled workers, including all fees.







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