

Redford government supports measures to improve rail service

March 7, 2014

Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Verlyn Olson issued the following statement in response to today's federal announcement of measures to immediately improve grain movement by rail.

Those actions include setting weekly delivery levels for rail companies, penalties for non-compliance, and emergency legislation to further improve service.

"Our government has advocated strongly that those that fail to meet their grain-delivery obligations should bear financial responsibility.

"We thank the federal government for listening and for today's important steps to address the rail service backlog that is affecting our grain producers and other sectors of our economy.

"Alberta has long-sought greater accountability within the grainhandling transportation system, and we look forward to all segments of the supply chain working together to get this year's bumper crop to market.

"Our reputation as a world-class supplier of food, energy and other commodities is reliant on the timely and efficient movement of goods to market.

"While rail service is federally regulated, enhancing market access is job one for Alberta.

"We will continue to work closely with the federal government and our partners in the West to deal with our immediate challenges - as well as develop long-term solutions."

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Government of Canada news release

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