

DARYL KRAMP, MP Prince Edward-Hastings

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AGRICULTURE MINISTER RITZ AND MP KRAMP SIT DOWN WITH FARMERS IN BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO

Belleville, ON: Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz sat down with farmers from Prince Edward-Hastings to get their input on agriculture policies and to let them know about programs the Government of Canada is delivering for farm families. Daryl Kramp, Member of Parliament for Prince Edward-Hastings, hosted the roundtable discussion.

“Our Government knows that farmers are the backbone of Canada’s economy,” said Minister Ritz. “That’s why this Government has made agriculture a key priority in the Economic Action Plan. We’re listening to farmers and producers to make sure that our programs are working for them.”

Minister Ritz used the opportunity to highlight key priorities in Canada’s Economic Action Plan that are designed to help farmers succeed during this time of economic instability. They include:

- Opening and expanding market opportunities for Canadian farmers and exporters in key markets around the world;
- Improved access to credit for new farmers through the Canadian Agricultural Loans Act (CALA);
- Business Risk Management Suite, providing stable, bankable programs to help farmers weather economic storms;
- A \$500 million Agricultural Flexibility fund to invest in marketing, innovation, and environmental projects; and,
- Tax relief for farm families.

“The input received today from farmers at this roundtable has been tremendously informative”, said Mr. Kramp. “I will continue to take their ideas and requirements to Ottawa to advocate for programs that will be most beneficial to them.”

This roundtable was part of ongoing consultations with farmers and agricultural stakeholders.