



# MEDIA RELEASE

“THE VOICE OF MANITOBA FARMERS”

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## **KAP Responds to the Federal Budget**

**Winnipeg** – Yesterday’s budget held few surprises in the way of announcements for agriculture, since the \$1 billion commitment was announced on the Prairies last week. The federal government’s move toward more predictable and affordable safety net programs for agriculture, combined with an investment to address ever-rising input costs, is appreciated by Manitoba farmers.

“A commitment of one billion dollars is positive for farm families, without question,” says Keystone Agricultural Producers President David Rolfe. “By combining this funding with a plan to put better programs in place, there is also value in this announcement for government, because now farmers know they have been heard.”

KAP continues to support the biofuels industry as a way to kick-start the rural economy and create new markets and investment opportunities for farmers. The support provided in the 2007 budget will help to make these opportunities a reality.

However, KAP was very disappointed to learn that the government did not announce a commitment to the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program. Instead of committing funding to a wide-scale national stewardship program led by farmers, the budget focused spending on increasing the number of environmental enforcement officers. While regulation and enforcement is critical, it is limited in its scope and impact, and will not create the widespread landscape protection that Canadians are looking for.

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Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba’s largest general farm policy organization, representing over 7,000 farm families and 20 commodity groups throughout the province.

Our strength is our democratic structure, and our mission is to represent and promote the interests of the province’s farm families.