

Attention News Editors:

## Canadian Pork Council Welcomes Government Measures

OTTAWA, Feb. 25 /CNW Telbec/ - The Canadian Pork Council believes the measures announced by the federal government today will go a long way to helping Canada's struggling livestock sector make it through the difficult months ahead.

Improvements to the Advance Payments Program that will provide better access to loans for producers, as well as a sow retirement program and a review of key user fees are parts of the package.

"We are re-assured by the announcement made by the federal government today" says Clare Schlegel, President of the Canadian Pork Council. "We believe the measures will be of significant help to producers."

The Canadian hog industry has been put under unbearable economic pressure because of the high Canadian dollar, soaring feed costs and low hog prices. Farm families and rural communities are feeling the impact as the industry adjusts to the new conditions, with many farmers being forced to leave their family-owned and run operations.

Jurgen Preugschas, First Vice-President, from Mayerthorpe, Alberta, says, "the initiatives announced today show the Harper government and the opposition parties appear genuinely committed to assisting Canada's key farm sectors during these extremely unusual and difficult economic times".

"We would like to thank the government for responding to our needs," says Jean-Guy Vincent, Second Vice-President from Sainte-Séraphine, Québec. "But we encourage all parties to move as quickly as possible to pass legislation."

"We have been working over the past months with governments at all levels, and today the federal government has shown that it has listened" says Schlegel, who farms in Shakespeare, Ontario. "These initiatives add more tools for producers to use, to help them through this crisis."

Schlegel added while that the troubles in the industry will not end soon, the federal government and the pork industry must continue to work together to find improvements that help to guarantee the long-term competitiveness of this important Canadian livestock industry.

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