

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA:

The background for this petition is as follows:

1. Agricultural producers have for many years relied on good advice from farm management, production and insurance specialists in many locations across Manitoba.
2. On January 6, 2021, the Provincial Government announced that it was closing thirty Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development (MARD) and Manitoba Agriculture Service Corporation (MASC) offices across the province on April 1, 2021.
3. Altona, Ashern, Birtle, Beausejour, Carberry, Carman, Deloraine, Fisher Branch, Gladstone, Glenboro, Grandview, Hamiota, Lundar, Melita, Minnedosa, Morris, Neepawa, Pilot Mound, Portage la Prairie, Toblin, Russell, Shoal Lake, Somerset, Souris, St-Pierre-Jolys, Ste. Rose du Lac, Teulon, Vita, Virden and Waskada are all affected by the Provincial Government's closures.
4. Closing these offices means less access to the supports producers need, especially in rural locations that lack strong internet services, and it removes local access to knowledgeable farm and insurance specialists.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the Provincial Government to stop the planned closure of Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation and Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development offices and invest in services that support producers in rural Manitoba.

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