



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General

Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

FEB 01 2017

Mr. Ray Orb, President
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
200 – 2221 Cornwall Street
REGINA SK S4P 2L1



Dear Mr. Orb:

RAY

Thank you for your letter of November 25, 2016 respecting resolutions from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Midterm Convention.

Respecting Resolution 29-16M, the government recognizes the harm that can be caused by trespassers on private land, whether it is rural or urban. It was that harm that led the government to pass *The Trespass to Property Act* in 2009. The purpose of the legislation was to provide a remedy to property owners when a trespass has occurred, in addition to the preexisting remedy of private court action. This remedy is provided through police action.

The goal was to provide a balance between property owners' rights and the rights of the general public, by providing a mechanism for property owners to prevent trespassing and an ability to press charges when it does occur.

In rural areas, particularly remote areas, the problem is often the identification of the trespasser to enable police to issue a ticket. It is difficult to see how this would change by legislating an absolute prohibition.

Ray Orb, President
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Officials from the Ministry of Justice would be pleased to meet with representatives from SARM to discuss this issue further. You may contact Mary Ellen Wellsch, Senior Crown Counsel at (306)787-5562 or maryellen.wellsch@gov.sk.ca to set up a meeting.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C.
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General