

Foreword

This study by the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture into the problem of stability in the beef industry was prompted by the heavy losses sustained by ranchers, feedlot operators and mixed farmers in recent years; losses so large as to threaten the very existence of this major Canadian industry.

Interest in this Senate inquiry has been extraordinary. The background for this interim report and the final report to follow is the wealth of information and the many suggestions presented to the Committee in sincere, well prepared briefs by producers organizations, by the Consumers' Association of Canada, by ministers and officials of the federal and provincial governments and by the beef producers who packed the halls for our public meetings.

The Senators on the Agriculture Committee have given generously of their time and talents in the course of this inquiry. The Committee is most fortunate to have amongst its members practising beef producers whose first-hand knowledge has enabled them to play a major role in the preparation of this report.

I must acknowledge the contribution of the members of the Committee who attended the public meetings held in various centres across the country: the Honourable Senators Hervé Michaud, Rhéal Bélisle, Harry Hays, Gil Molgat, Margaret Norrie and Herb Sparrow; and of the subcommittee who spent many hours discussing and drafting this interim report: the Honourable Senators Hervé Michaud, Harry Hays, Gil Molgat, Herb Sparrow, Paul Yuzyk and A. H. McDonald.

Particular mention must also be made of the valuable assistance rendered the Committee by Mrs. Aline Pritchard and Mr. Georges Coderre of the Senate Committees' Branch, by Mr. Len Christie of the research staff of the Parliamentary Library, and by the Committee's two diligent researchers, Mr. Albert F. Chambers and Mr. Richard Andrews.

Hazen Argue, *Chairman*