

CRITIQUE OF THE DISCUSSION PAPER

Although the intent of the Discussion Paper is stated to be for consultation and discussion, it reads more like a "Position Paper". Its analysis is slanted and bias to the point where the reader can very easily conclude that there are really no serious problems in Canadian agriculture and that farmers are wealthy and their income is equal to or better than those of the average Canadian.

We believe that the authors of the paper must have been completely unaware of the serious financial crisis facing many farmers in Canada. If their intention was to eliminate small family farms then the paper will obtain the required general public support to allow the government to achieve this end result. However, the Institute does not believe this is government policy.

Some of the problems in the Paper are detailed as follows:

Number of Farms and Farmers

There appears to be something wrong with the analysis showing that there is approximately 100,000 more individuals reporting farm activity for tax purposes than there are census farms. The analysis concludes that there is only about 34,000 individuals in farm partnerships. Considering the number of husband and wife; father and son; father, mother and children; and sibling partnerships in farming today, we just cannot accept the analysis as stated in the Paper.