

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, December 17, 2009

2:30 P.M.

**For Immediate Release*

Lethbridge AB ... The Board of Directors of the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce had a special presentation by Glen Metzler, Managing Director of API Labs Inc., during a recent Board meeting.

API Labs is an Alberta-based company that was founded to develop dominant thebaine poppy as an alternative to existing opium-tract varieties and to create a business for the production of medications derived from the alkaloids of a non-opium poppy.

The overall objective of API Labs is to develop the growth regime for the poppy variety, establish the commercial extraction process for the medical ingredients and build a dominant market position for these compounds, initially in Canada and subsequently in the United States and other markets.

Following Mr. Metzler's presentation and discussion by Chamber Board members, the Board agreed to support API Labs Inc. in its effort to establish a thebaine poppy farming and processing industry in Alberta, which would promote domestic production of pharmaceuticals presently imported into Canada.

In a letter to Premier Ed Stelmach, the Chamber asks the Alberta Government to press federal counterparts, especially the Minister of Health, to proceed in the very near future with all the regulatory or licensing approvals required to bring online this high value added and environmentally sustainable industry (*please see attached letter*).

"The proposal by API Labs Inc. is a private sector investment which is greatly needed in the farming and agricultural processing sector, bringing in yet another valuable non-food use of farm products to the benefit of this city and farmers in the region," states Chamber President Paul Pharo.

A letter of support for API Labs Inc. was also approved by the Board, to go forward to the Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq (*please see attached letter*).

Paul Pharo points out in the letter to Minister Aglukkaq, "The Government of Canada is depending on the private sector to invest in new businesses once recent fiscal stimulus efforts are completed. The proposal by API Labs Inc., is the type of private sector investment expected in order to step away from the needed but temporary public sector stimulus of the economy."



Paul Pharo
President & Chair of the Board
Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce

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