

The Honourable Rachel Notley  
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December 3, 2015

Dear Premier Notley,

Alberta's farmers take safety of their workers, their families and themselves on their farms very seriously. The Alberta Canola Producers Commission (ACPC) understands that we have a unique opportunity for farmers and government to work together to shape effective farm safety policy for Alberta. However, labour relations, and to some extent, employment standards, are outside the scope of farm safety itself.

Prior to the government change this year, we were already working with the previous government on farm safety issues; always urging consultation with farmers, reasonable timelines, and transparency from the beginning. We reiterated the same to your government.

ACPC has also emphasized repeatedly that sustained improvement in safety performance will come only with increased education, training and adoption of a safety culture where shared learning and open communication is ingrained. The current Bill 6 implementation process runs counter to that goal.

We are asking you to pause this process and go back to the drawing board; consult with farmers on each of the four pieces of legislation contained in Bill 6 separately, then clearly communicate what you learn during all consultation, sharing exactly how each proposed change will impact individual farms and ranches.

In order to make progress on farm safety legislation, the entire agriculture industry has to completely understand and support the proposed changes. For that to happen, consultation, listening, transparency, and communications are paramount.



ACPC is dedicated to working with the Government of Alberta and our agriculture partners on this important issue, representing the 15,000 canola growers across Alberta. As the elected farmer representatives and leaders in the industry, we look forward to working for our own producers, alongside our partners in the agricultural industry to be active stakeholders in these consultations.

Please contact myself or our General Manager, Ward Toma, to discuss opportunities for further consultation and collaboration.

Sincerely,



Lee Markert

Chairman  
Alberta Canola Producers Commission

CC:

The Honourable Lori Sigurdson  
Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training & Labour

The Honourable Oneil Carlier  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

