

August 20, 2015

The Honourable Lori Sigurdson  
Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training & Labour  
Legislature Building  
Edmonton, AB

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The Honourable Oneil Carlier  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Legislature Building  
Edmonton, AB

Dear Ministers Sigurdson and Carlier,

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. Improving safety on farms through the development and delivery of education and training programs will be key to reducing fatalities and serious incidents. ACPC is committed to supporting opportunities to partner with the Government of Alberta to promote and deliver Alberta's new Farm Safe program as well as other relevant programs and initiatives.

ACPC is a producer elected and directed organization that represents the interests of over 15,000 canola growers in Alberta. We are funded by our members through a refundable check-off to deliver extension and education initiatives, and to advise government with respect to our growers in areas such as research, policy, and market development.

On behalf of our members, we are pleased to respond to the information introduced to industry stakeholders at the Safe and Healthy Farms and Ranches Information Session in Edmonton on June 29, 2015. ACPC supports the removal of agriculture's exemption from the *Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Act* in order to facilitate serious incident and fatality investigations and reporting. We request that the development of any technical rules supported by this legislation be done in partnership with stakeholders, including Alberta's crop sector, over a reasonable period of time. This change in legislation has the potential to alienate many in the farm community, but we believe the outcome will be positive as long as the complexities of the agriculture industry are considered.

Agriculture operates in a diverse and complex environment; the cropping sector is unique in that most farms rely on family members to get the work done with support from seasonal



employees when required. ACPC is dedicated to working with the Government of Alberta and our agriculture partners on this important issue. Please contact myself or our General Manager, Ward Toma, to discuss opportunities for further consultation and collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Markert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lee Markert  
Chairman, Alberta Canola Producers Commission

CC: Members of Executive Council  
Andre Corbould, Deputy Minister Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour  
Jason Krips, Deputy Minister Agriculture and Forestry  
Richard Dicerni, Deputy Minister Executive Council

