



PO Box 20106
Regina, SK S4P 4J7
info@poga.ca

January 7, 2016

Honourable Minister Carlier
229 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6
whitecourt.steanne@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Honourable Minister Carlier.

Thank you for hosting the conference call on December 21, 2015 with many of the Alberta crop commissions. We appreciated your candor and your openness to any suggestions related to making the process of implementing bill 6 both effective and beneficial for those involved.

Further to that conference call, AOGC has carefully reviewed our notes of the conversation, investigated other provincial programs and closely reviewed all the information on your government site as it relates to Farm and Ranch workplace legislation. For the commission to make the important decision whether or not to fully engage or support the described process we require more information from you.

Clarification is required on several issues:

1. Will the online survey for farmers be extended for individual comments to ensure farmers are heard since the current timeframe is so short? Will there be a report on the number and type of comments and recommendations raised through that process?
2. AOGC needs more information on the process. Please provide descriptions of the 6 tables, the minister's notes from the meetings held, reference for the tables, framework for nominations, information on financial support for groups to participate in the process, and background information on which Bill 6 was based. Our understanding of the call on December 21 was that

all of these were to be provided to call participants by January 1, 2016. To date we have not received any of this information, yet, according to www.alberta.ca, the tables will be in place February 1, 2016.

3. It was stated that Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour would be the authors of the legislation around bill 6. AOGC needs considerable assurance that the recommendations of this process will be utilized, and that commodity groups will be able to discuss and debate the draft regulations prior to the legislative process beginning. We want to ensure that the recommendations from the consultation are implemented.
4. AOGC is very interested in who and how representatives will be chosen for the 6 tables (the website suggests appointments, while the December 21 call talked about nominations). Who are all the stakeholders besides commodity groups, farmers and ranchers? Will unions, lawyers, academia, etc. be present? If so please provide a list. Will there be advisory personnel at committee's disposal as well?
5. Communication needs to be transparent, frequent, and accurate and reach farmers and ranchers. Please provide assurance that meeting minutes will be public and any other method you plan to accomplish this.
6. Please provide clarification on the definition of the following terms per the Farm and Ranch workplace legislation listed on www.alberta.ca/farmandranch. Please define: neighbors, stakeholders, industry, farm industry, reasonable steps, unsafe or imminent danger, best practices, chores, contract worker, and other employees (in terms of "bringing protection and compensation of non-family farm and ranch employees in line with what's already extended to other employees).

We all realize that farming contributes significantly to food security and to the economic growth of our province. We work where we live; therefore, we take our responsibility of ensuring a safe, healthy environment for our family and ourselves very seriously. Lastly, we farmers are resilient and adaptable to ongoing change.

A response is required by January 12, 2016 in order to make more informed decisions on behalf Alberta Oat Growers before the February 1 date the government of Alberta has set as provided on your website. AOGC has sent two additional letters to the Government of Alberta with information requested by mid-December and January 1 respectively with no reply. AOGC would like to work with you on this important issue but we need more information by the January 12, 2016 deadline, therefore please reply to both myself and info@poga.ca.

Sincerely,



Keith Gilchrist, Chairman
keithpgilchrist@yahoo.ca
Phone: (780)-349-9734

c.c. Honourable Minister Sigurdson