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February 16, 2016

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

Dear Honourable Minister Carlier.

The Alberta Oat Growers Commission held their Annual General Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 in Edmonton. At this time, as publicized, we asked oat producers for feedback via a paper survey and discussions on what they would like the Alberta Oat Grower Commission's (AOGC) position to be on Bill 6, specifically on Workers Compensation and OH&S.

Below are the results of that survey and discussion:

1. What would your preferred position on Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) for farms in the province of Alberta be? A very large majority said no OH & S is necessary for farms in Alberta.
2. Do you believe the new Workers Compensation Board (WCB) law should this be revisited to include private insurance? A very large majority said yes. Producers stressed if a producer has private insurance already they should not have to change to WCB where the coverage is only farm-specific.
3. Would the new WCB law be acceptable if salaries are under \$20,000 per year are exempt? Or another dollar amount? No, most agreed that mandatory insurance is acceptable but producers should have choice of private insurance or WCB. One example provided was that WCB doctors

tell you when you can go back to work while private insurance provides better protection for workers.

4. Should the Alberta agricultural commissions be representing Alberta producers at the government tables working on laws around OH&S (and possibly WCB) recognizing that most of these issues will be around the legal framework in addition to HR and Labor issues which is not the expertise of a typical board member? If not, who should be? Yes, producer groups should participate, but costs associated with participation should be tracked. The government should ensure producers, along with staff, are sitting at the tables. Concerns were expressed about the willingness of the Government of Alberta to listen to what producers want. Questions were raised as to how organizations like AOGC can be involved when costs are unknown. Producers stated that the GOA needs to fund participation for the commissions to be in the process. Consensus was to bridge the gap on communications among producer groups moving ahead and for producer groups to stay at the table.

AOGC, representing over 2,000 oat growers in Alberta, wants to ensure the voice of producers is being heard. Please reply back to the letter with information on how you plan to address the concerns listed above as brought forward by our members.

AOGC has sent three additional letters to the Government of Alberta with information requested by mid-December, 2015, January 1, 2016 and January 12, 2016 respectively with no reply. AOGC would like to work with you on this important issue but we need more information, in a timely fashion of no more than 3 weeks for a reply. Therefore, please reply to both myself and [info@poga.ca](mailto:info@poga.ca) by March 8, 2016 with information from this letter as well as the previous three requests.

Sincerely,



Keith Gilchrist, Chairman  
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Phone: (780)-349-9734

c.c. Honourable Minister Sigurdson