

June 27, 2017

The Honourable Oneil Carlier  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of the Minister  
Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

VIA EMAIL

Email to: [af.minister.m@gov.ab.ca](mailto:af.minister.m@gov.ab.ca)

**Subject: Public Engagement on *Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* Regulations**

Minister Carlier:

Sturgeon County Council is appreciative of the Ministry's commitment to public engagement and stakeholder input regarding the Regulations associated with the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act*; our own Councillor Karen Shaw was a participant on one of the six Technical Working Groups over the past several months.

While Sturgeon County recognizes that the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* serves an important purpose in ensuring that agricultural workers have the same rights and protections as other workers in Alberta, it is important that this legislation and its associated regulations do not unfairly compromise the ability of agricultural producers to operate sustainably.

Further, given that the Legislative Assembly has approved *Bill 17: The Fair and Family-Friendly Workplace Act*, whereby it is understood that this legislation will have impacts on agriculture workers, and that public consultation was limited to a 36-day online feedback process, Sturgeon County Council, in coordination with the Sturgeon County Agriculture Service Board, requests that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, conduct a broader engagement and communications exercise so that agriculture producers and workers are more aware of potential impacts of Bill 6 itself, the associated regulations, and any further anticipated impacts associated with Bill 17.

Without a thorough understanding of farmworker legislation, agriculture producers and workers are challenged to understand how their businesses, families, and livelihoods are impacted; without this awareness, any operational changes necessary to ensure legislative compliance may be inadvertently difficult.

As you are aware, agriculture is an integral part of Alberta's economy and Albertans' way of life. Misinformation and lack of certainty regarding legislative requirements make it challenging to make informed business decisions, and although the Government's public consultation process to-date has been

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well-intentioned, Sturgeon County Council asks that a more concentrated and detailed communications plan be developed and implemented to advise agriculture producers and workers of actual and intended changes, and where possible, their feedback sought through a more meaningful approach prior to introducing and passing legislation.

Sturgeon County remains committed to working with the Government of Alberta to maintain and grow Alberta's agriculture sector.

Best Regards,



Tom Flynn – Mayor  
Sturgeon County

cc.

The Honourable Christina Gray, Minister of Labour and Democratic Renewal  
Mr. Colin Piquette, MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater  
Mr. Trevor Horne, MLA for Spruce Grove-St. Albert  
Mr. Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock  
Al Kemmere, AAMDC President  
Sturgeon County Council  
Peter Tarnawsky, Sturgeon County Commissioner-CAO