

June 25, 2019

Mr. Chad MacPherson, General Manager  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
Box 4753  
REGINA SK S4P 3Y4

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your June 14, 2019 email regarding Resolution #8 from your Annual General Meeting with respect to mandatory training for drivers of semis used in agricultural operations. I would like to acknowledge your valuable input in the consultation process and the resulting changes.

Road safety is a priority for our government and SGI. Collaborative discussions began back in July 2017 about improving commercial driver training in Saskatchewan. In light of the terrible Humboldt Broncos tragedy, the need for standardized training was further reinforced. SGI worked with the other western Canadian provinces toward a consistent approach to standardizing Class 1 driver training programs including in-class, in-yard and behind-the-wheel training hours. The trucking industry and other stakeholders were consulted and the vast majority were in favour of a robust training program.

Prior to the recent changes, there were no requirements for training. Training was not mandatory nor was it standardized. For those individuals who chose to complete some training, SGI would have no concrete evidence of the type of training they underwent. The status quo for training in Saskatchewan was not supportable.

As you know, mandatory and standardized training for commercial semi truck drivers was implemented on March 15, 2019. The significance of this need is reflected in the fact that same standard is being used in Alberta and soon in Manitoba. Other provinces are looking at adopting similar standards as well. The federal Minister of Transportation has promised to implement a national standard for Class 1 entry level training by early 2020 with the goal being mandatory training for all of Canada.

We wanted to take some more time to consult with the farm sector, which included the Stock Growers Association, on the impacts mandatory training would have on their industry. That consultation work is now complete. The majority of people we consulted in the agricultural sector agreed training was necessary to improve safety for everyone travelling on our roads. We must keep in mind these are still large, heavy vehicles travelling on public roadways and they have the potential to cause significant damage.

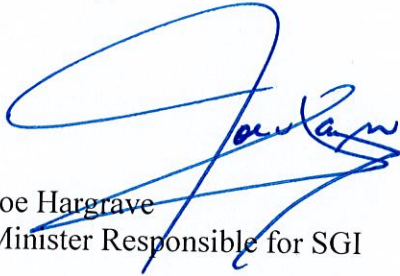
Mr. Chad MacPherson  
Page 2  
June 25, 2019

---

As a result, our government announced new training requirements will be phased in beginning next year for those wishing to drive a semi in agricultural operations. The changes were announced in May in order to provide plenty of notice to allow those in the farming industry time to prepare. SGI is currently working with the various commercial training schools to make more of the required training program available on-line.

With respect to funding to help with the costs of the new program, there is some funding available through the Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant. This is an employer-driven program that provides eligible employers with financial support to train new or existing employees for available jobs. More information can be found on the Saskatchewan government website at: [www.saskatchewan.ca/business/hire-train-and-manage-employees/apply-for-the-canada-saskatchewan-job-grant](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/hire-train-and-manage-employees/apply-for-the-canada-saskatchewan-job-grant).

Sincerely,



Joe Hargrave  
Minister Responsible for SGI

cc: Andrew R. Cartmell  
President and CEO, SGI