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AR70482

October 10, 2017

Ms. Jennifer Fuchinsky  
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator  
Legal Services Division, Civil Law – Litigation  
Justice and Solicitor General  
9 Floor, Peace Hills Trust Tower  
10011 - 109 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

Dear Ms. Fuchinsky:

Thank you for your letter of June 21, 2017 regarding the public inquiry into the death of Mr. Stephen Murray Gibson in a workplace incident. Mr. Gibson's death is tragic and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Alberta Labour is committed to the health and safety of farm and ranch workers. As such, in response to the inquiry's recommendations:

- Alberta Labour accepts in principle Judge Brown's recommendation that safety play a larger role in post-secondary programs. This is accepted in principle because my department recognizes the value of health and safety education in protecting workers.
- Alberta Labour does not support Judge Brown's recommendation for mandatory certification of farm equipment, but supports a different set of measures. No Canadian jurisdiction has mandatory certification of farm equipment used in workplaces. Instead, my department supports a two-pronged approach. First, Alberta Labour supports Agriculture and Forestry in providing educational materials to farmers. Second, Alberta Labour has also been working with the farming and ranching community to determine how to implement safety standards that not only balance the safety and protection of workers but also ensures the sustainability and prosperity of farms for generations to come as well. The Code, which currently applies to all industries other than farming and ranching, contains provisions that require safeguards or suitable alternatives on rotating parts, such as the one that killed Mr. Gibson, and contains provisions on equipment modification. Alberta Labour is currently in the process of developing OHS rules to improve safety in farming and ranching. This work is being undertaken as part of the implementation of the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act*.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to respond. If you require anything further, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Parr', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Parr  
Deputy Minister