

October 27, 2017

Ms. Jennifer Fuchinsky
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator
Justice and Solicitor General
9th Floor Peace Hills Trust Tower, 10011-109 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

Dear Ms. Fuchinsky:

Thank you for providing the Honourable Judge A.J. Brown's report regarding the public inquiry into the tragic death of Mr. Stephen Murray Gibson.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is committed to the health and safety of farm and ranch workers, and I appreciate the opportunity to share information in response to Judge Brown's recommendations.

- Recommendation #1 (Compulsory post-secondary farm safety training) – While Agriculture and Forestry can accept this recommendation in principle, post-secondary education programming falls outside the mandate of the ministry. However, it is important to note that Agriculture and Forestry does support greater awareness of farm safety through a number of different initiatives, including the Green Certificate Program. The Green Certificate Program, which is delivered in partnership with Alberta Education, is an apprentice-style program that allows high school students to earn credits while learning about aspects of agriculture production. Safety practices are a key component of this program.
- Recommendation #2 (Compulsory safety certification of farm equipment) – Alberta Labour is the lead ministry in terms of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements. As noted by Alberta Labour in its response, no other jurisdiction in Canada has mandatory certification of farm equipment used in workplaces. Agriculture and Forestry is currently working with Alberta Labour, in consultation with the agricultural community, to develop OHS regulations and standards as part of the implementation of the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act*. The goal of this work is to enhance the safety and protection of farm workers, while ensuring that any regulations brought forward make sense for Alberta's agriculture sector.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,


Bev Yee
Deputy Minister