

Workplace & Employment Committee

The Committee met on March 16th, 2009.

Employment Standards. KAP had requested a 50 hour work week for all of agriculture, but the response that we received from government indicated that this was only for seasonal industries, such as landscape. However, the construction industry has a 50 hour work week in summer and 48 hours in winter. KAP will consult with its commodity groups to see what permits have been obtained to date prior to proceeding with lobby efforts in this area.

Workers Compensation. KAP continues to monitor the effects of workers compensation on agriculture. It was decided that KAP would request a meeting with Workers Compensation to discuss how they will be looking at rates for the future and how sectors will be categorized.

Building Codes. The committee reviewed the information from a meeting held with the Fire Commissioner on the National Building Code and having agriculture buildings fall within that code. This would apply to buildings over 600 sq meters and would not apply to existing buildings unless there are modifications (such as expansions). There were a lot of concerns raised including accessing engineers with agriculture knowledge to oversee the work, costs of compliance, etc.

Committee Name. The committee was previously named the “Workplace Health, Safety and Labour Standards Committee” but has a very broad mandate so the name is now changed to “Workplace and Employment Committee”.

Mandate for 2009. The committee’s activities will include continue to monitor and provide feedback as it relates to workers compensation; increase awareness of new and existing workplace programs to our membership; encourage farm health and safety initiatives; monitor and be awareness of issues with employment standards; and monitor collective labour activity on farm operations.

Committee Members. Doug Chorney (Chair), Hans Borst, David Day, Karl Kynoch, George Graham, Chuck Fossay, Doug Connery, David Rolfe, Miles Beaudin, Eric McLean.

Staff Resource: Yvonne Rideout.

Keystone Agricultural Producers - The Voice of Manitoba Farmers