



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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WCB Coverage Coming to Farms

Winnipeg – This week, the provincial government announced that Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) coverage will be mandatory for farms and many other agriculturally-based businesses. Keystone Agricultural Producers’ position has always been that WCB coverage should remain voluntary, due to the unique and diverse conditions facing farmers.

“During WCB consultations this year, we advised the government that agriculture should remain voluntary,” says KAP President Ian Wishart. “However, mandatory coverage may turn out to have a mix of positives and negatives for farmers and KAP is already planning out how to work with WCB to make sure the new requirements work for farmers.”

When the expansion of coverage was announced, government noted that family members working on the farm would still be excluded. KAP will be working with WCB to define who is considered a family member, and how this exclusion might work in situations where family members are also employees of their farm corporation.

“WCB coverage will help to protect farm employees, and also minimize liability and risk for the farm employer, so that’s the positive side of what will come from this,” says Wishart. “On the negative side, there will be some increased costs and paperwork that will cut into the farm’s resources.”

KAP will also be encouraging WCB to partner on aggressive farm safety campaigns to build a stronger culture of safety in agriculture.

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