



June 5, 2026

Hon. Jamie Moses
Minister of Business, Mining, Trade & Job Creation
minbmtjc@manitoba.ca

Dear Minister Moses:

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, providing a unified voice for farmers on issues that affect agriculture. KAP represents and promotes the interests of all Manitoba farmers and 18 commodity associations. We are writing to express our concern with recent changes to the Mandatory Entry-Level Training funding.

In March 2019, the Government of Manitoba implemented Mandatory Entry-Level Training (MELT) as a requirement for drivers who want to obtain a class one licence. Until recently, farmers had MELT funding through the Canada-Manitoba Job Grant. This grant covered 75 percent of MELT tuition for farmers or their employees. We appreciate your government's announcement with the Building Up Manitoba Program and \$4 million in available funding. Unfortunately, based on discussions with the department, MELT tuition is ineligible under the new program, and no other funding options exist.

Virtually all Manitoba agricultural product is moved off the farm by truck to its first destination. Truck transportation is essential. And most tonnage is moved through a truck trailer setup that requires a class one licence. But these licences have come at a significant cost. A \$60-dollar class one licence no longer exists—instead costs range from \$5500 to \$10,000 with the MELT requirement. Farmers took advantage of the previous Canada-Manitoba Job Grant to offset some of the costs associated with MELT, and we would like to see farmers continue to benefit under the Building up Manitoba Program.

We respectfully request that MELT be an eligible training activity under the Building up Manitoba Program.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response. Please contact KAP policy manager, Neil Van Overloop, at neil.vanoverloop@kap.ca should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Colin Hornby
General Manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.

CC:

Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture
Scott Sinclair, Deputy Minister of Agriculture
Michael Jack, Deputy Minister of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation

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