Manitoba
Municipal and Northern Relations
Deputy Minister

Room 143 Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8
T 204-945-5568
DMmnr@manitoba.ca

August 28, 2026

Lisha Hassanali
Communications and Stakeholder Relations Manager
Keystone Agricultural Producers
Lisha.Hassanali@kap.ca

Dear Lisha Hassanali:

Thank you for your letter of August 6, 2026, submitted on behalf of Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) and the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association regarding the Manitoba Water Services Board's (MWSB) Standard Construction Specification for Seeding. I appreciate the time and effort your organizations have taken to provide recommendations and highlight the importance of native and pollinator-friendly plant species.

Our government recognizes the critical role that agriculture plays in Manitoba's economy and rural communities. We also acknowledge the important contributions of KAP and the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association in supporting a sustainable and productive agricultural sector.

MWSB periodically reviews its standard construction specifications to ensure they remain aligned with current published standards, regulatory requirements, and environmental considerations. Input from organizations such as KAP and the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association is valuable in helping inform this process and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Your recommendations have been shared with Manitoba Water Services Board staff for consideration as part of ongoing reviews of MWSB's seeding specification Section 02 48 60. MWSB will continue to evaluate opportunities to strengthen its standards while balancing construction, operational, environmental, and regional requirements.

Thank you again for bringing these recommendations forward and for your continued advocacy on behalf of Manitoba's agricultural producers and beekeepers.

Sincerely,

Maurice Bouvier
Deputy Minister

c. Honourable Ron Kostyshyn, Minister, Department of Agriculture
Honourable Glen Simard, Minister, Municipal and Northern Relations
Scott Sinclair, Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture
Neil Van Overloop, Policy Manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.
Ian Steppler, Chairperson, Manitoba Beekeepers' Association
Michael Clark, Director, Manitoba Beekeepers' Association
Travis Parsons, General Manager, Manitoba Water Services Board