



New Temporary Foreign Worker Program Confirms Feed Lots as Primary Agriculture

Changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program were announced today in Ottawa by Employment and Social Development (ESDC) Minister Jason Kenney and Chris Alexander, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. The biggest change for cattle feeders is that **feed lot workers are now included in primary agriculture!** This means that cattle feeders will be exempt from the changes announced today. The full document is available on the ESDC website <http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/home.shtml>. Highlights for primary agriculture are as follows:

On-farm and primary agriculture, including the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), is exempt from the following measures, as there are proven acute labour shortages in this industry and the unfilled jobs are truly temporary:

- *LMIA Fee*
- *Cap on low-wage temporary foreign workers*
- *1 year LMIA duration*
- *Reduction in the period that a low-way temporary foreign worker will be allowed to remain in Canada (SAWP only)*

This is a huge win for NCF and its members across Canada. It came after months of intensive lobbying in Ottawa and in all regions of the country. Clearly, our message was heard and I thank all those who called MPs, MLAs, cabinet ministers, wrote letters, joined us in meetings and raised our voice throughout the land. We were in constant contact with staff in Minister Kenney's office and appreciated the support we had from Minister Ritz and his staff. Our concerns were real and presented in a forthright manner. We will continue to be vigilant and push the Labour Action Plan set out by the Labour Task Force of the Agriculture and Agri-food Round Tables.

The Agriculture Industry Labour Council of Alberta (which I now chair) is planning a Labour Summit in October to drive the Labour Action Plan and point out policies that are working and those that are not. While we are grateful that our concerns were recognized, there will be challenges in the supply chain, especially for the packers, as the changes will have negative impacts that could ripple up and down the chain.

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General Manager
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