



Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Media Release

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Regulation Change Increases Mobility for Seasonal Agriculture Workers

New regulations will allow seasonal agriculture workers to use their home driver's license while employed to work on a farm in Nova Scotia.

"We are growing the economy and addressing labour shortages by allowing seasonal agricultural workers to use their home license for the duration of their stay in Nova Scotia," said Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations Minister Ramona Jennex in a recent release.

The exemption of seasonal agricultural workers from examination and the licensing requirements of the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) come after extensive lobby efforts by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Richard Melvin, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture says, "We are pleased with the decision by Minister Jennex and her colleagues to approve the regulation changes to license requirements for seasonal agriculture workers." "By providing these workers with the mobility to travel on Nova Scotia roads, they can perform their necessary harvest tasks efficiently and effectively". Melvin adds, "This is a good thing for the Industry and is reflective of the important contribution these workers and the program are making to the farm and provincial economy."

The Federation suggests that farmers involved with the seasonal agriculture workers program (SAWP) should have a dialogue with their workers to ensure they understand the importance of obtaining their international driver's permit when they are in their home country this winter.

These seasonal workers will need to meet certain criteria in order to qualify for the MVA exemption; they must be a citizen of Barbados, Jamaica or Mexico, employed to work on a farm in Nova Scotia under a work permit, be 16 years of age, hold an international driver's permit (IDP) in their home country in the previous 12 months and may only drive a vehicle of the class specified on their IDP.

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For further information contact

Richard Melvin
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
Tel: (902) 582-7939

Wanda Hamilton
Communications Officer
(902) 893-2293 or whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture represents the interests of over 2500 farm families in Nova Scotia. Founded in 1895 to provide Nova Scotia's farm community with a single voice, the NSFA is the province's only general farm organization.