



OCTOBER 2017

# MuckerNews

Monthly Articles & Updates For HMGA Members

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Please be advised that the MOL officers are out and about making visits to farms and businesses in the area. They are checking to see if your work place safety program is in place. As well they may have look around to make sure there are no violations on your farm. If you require an occupational health and safety box for you farm, please contact Jody. They are available in different languages and are free of charge.

## BRIDGE STREET LIGHTS

Meetings with Patrick Brown and Finance Minister Charles Sousa have been arranged in October for a more focused discussion on minimum wage and other ESA issues. We continue to work with various groups on this and will pass on information as we have it.

## PLATINUM SPONSOR

HMGA would like to welcome aboard Norseco as a Platinum Sponsor for the Association. We would like to thank them and look forward to working with them in the future.



## CHC – FALL HARVEST 2017

HMGA will be joining CHC in Ottawa in November. We will be part of the industry teams will meet with elected officials and high level civil servants.

*The two key issues currently on government agendas will impact the entire produce supply chain in Canada – the creation of a National Food Policy and trade issues such as the renegotiation of NAFTA. It is crucial that the produce industry reaches out to government to ensure its needs are recognized.*

## BILL 148 - CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT

We are working with several groups on Bill 148. Although Bill 148 includes minimum wage it does not address the exemptions and special rules found in Reg. 285. The Ministry of Labour has said it is committed to consulting with the industry sectors covered by Reg. 285 sometime in the fall. The impact is a concern, but at this point in time we do not know if existing exemptions will continue to apply or if new standards can form part of the exemptions.

## COVER CROP PROGRAMS

As you are harvesting keeping in mind there are 2 programs available to you for cover crops.

- 1) HMGA Cover Crop Program - Funds are still available in this program. If you are interested please contact Jody.
- 2) Lake Simcoe Soil Health Improvement Project - This offers up to 50% cost-share to a maximum of \$20,000 in funding. Cover Crops, Crop Nutrient Plans, Buffer Strips, Windbreaks and Windstrips, Equipment Customization, Erosion Control Structures, Fragile Land Retirement and Runoff Water Management Qualify for this project.

For more information contact: [SHIP@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:SHIP@ontariosoilcrop.org) or 226-706-8669

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- CHC Fall Harvest 2017 – November 6-8, 2017
- Royal Fair – November 3-12, 2017
- OPMA Gala - November 17, 2017
- OFVGA - February 20, 2018
- OFVC – February 21-22, 2018

## CANADA BORDER SERVICES

Canada Border Services Agency office in Barrie closed in doors as of September 29, 2017. We have been asked to let our members know services are now being provided by the Greater Toronto Area Region Commercial District which is located at Pearson International Airport.