

June 19, 2024

Brenna Mahoney
General Manager
Keystone Agricultural Producers
brenna.mahoney@kap.ca

Dear Brenna Mahoney:

Thank you for your February 29, 2024 letter requesting clarification on small business eligibility under the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program. I am pleased to respond on behalf of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure.

Manitoba administers its provincial DFA program in accordance with the Government of Canada's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA). As such, for a small business or farm to be eligible under a provincial DFA program, it must meet the criteria under the federal DFAA. This includes that they must have yearly gross revenues of between \$10,000 and \$2 million, employ the equivalent of 20 full-time employees or less, be an owner-operated enterprise where the individual owner-operator is acting as a day-to-day manager, one owner (or spouses combined) must own at least 50 per cent of the business, and it must not be a hobby business.

The Government of Canada is undertaking a review of the federal DFAA, and a modernized version is set to take effect April 1, 2025. Based on information received through Canada's engagement with provinces and territories, it is expected that the modernized DFAA will reduce the ownership restrictions that are currently in place for small businesses.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Department of Agriculture, will engage with the Keystone Agricultural Producers as more information on the modernized DFAA comes available from the Government of Canada over the coming months. We would also welcome the opportunity to work with your organization as Manitoba develops the updated provincial DFA program, our desire is to develop a program that better meets the needs of Manitoban producers.

I would like the opportunity to discuss this further with your organization and will have my office arrange the meeting in the near future.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,



Ryan Klos
Deputy Minister

c: Brenda DeSerranno, Deputy Minister of Agriculture