

**RESOLUTION 6-19**  
**STEP PROGRAM AGRICULTURAL ELIGIBILITY**

**WHEREAS:** Farming operations, whether they are incorporated, or a sole proprietorship can be very labour intensive, especially in the fruit and vegetable sector;

**WHEREAS:** As of October 1, 2018, the minimum wage goes up to \$15.00/hour creating an even greater expense to farming operations with high labour costs;

**WHEREAS:** The STEP program states that “Small businesses must be registered in Alberta and have a valid Alberta Corporate Access Number (ACAN);

**WHEREAS:** Opening up opportunities for students both high school and post secondary for summer employment in the agricultural industry whether the employer is incorporated or not will benefit both employer and employee and support local agriculture, local food production, agritourism, and farmers markets;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

the Government of Alberta review its Summer Temporary Employment Program to include farms and small businesses that are not incorporated.

**SPONSORED BY:** Cypress County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Alberta Culture and Tourism

Alberta Labour

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### Summer Temporary Employment (STEP)

The Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) is a Government of Alberta program whereby eligible organizations can apply for a wage subsidy to hire high school or post-secondary students into summer jobs.

From the website [www.alberta.ca/step.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/step.aspx)

*“The STEP program provides funding to eligible Alberta employers to hire high school or post-secondary students into summer jobs from May to August.”*

*“Summer positions created through STEP provide students with the opportunity to build meaningful work experience, increase their skills, gain workplace insight and help prepare them for the future. “*

*“It is up to the employers to find students they would like to hire through STEP”*

*“The Government of Alberta will provide an employer with a wage subsidy of \$7 per hour for a minimum of 30 hours per week (on average) and a maximum of 37.5 hours per week.”*

At this time the program is only assessable to businesses that are incorporated. Small businesses must be registered in Alberta and have a valid Alberta Corporate Access Number (ACAN).

Many farms are not incorporated and operate as sole proprietorships. These farms can provide valuable summer employment opportunities in the agricultural sector closing the gap between rural and urban. Employing more students in agriculture will provide a valuable appreciation of agriculture, local food production and agritourism.

### **Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ)**

Another program for obtaining summer employees is the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program. CSJ is an initiative of the Summer Work Experience program. It provides wage subsidies to employers to create employment for secondary and post-secondary students.

Canada Summer Jobs welcomes applications from small businesses, not-for-profit employers, public sector and faith-based organizations that provide quality summer jobs for students.

CSJ provides funding to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer full-time employees to create summer job opportunities for

young people aged 15 to 30 years who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year.

The Assessment criteria for this program does not mention agriculture. From the website <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs/review.html>

“Job supports the provision of services in the community:

- To persons with disabilities
- To newcomers to Canada (including Syrian refugees)
- To indigenous people
- To members of visible minorities
- To persons who are homeless or street-involved
- To other groups with social or employment barriers including literacy and numeracy
- To children or youth
- To seniors
- To the LGBTQ2 community
- Related to environmental protection
- Related to crime prevention
- Related to public health and safety
- Related to cultural development or historical preservation”