

Mandatory Entry-Level Training for Class 1 Drivers

KAP’s July policy roundtable survey was on class 1 driver licenses and mandatory entry-level training (MELT). The range of opinions is nicely summarized by these two comments provided by roundtable members:

- Society is asking, demanding that safety on the roads regarding large conveyance vehicles be paramount. There is no argument to be made for any special treatment for farmers regarding training and licensing.
- The leap from not mandatory to 121 hours is excessive for farm drivers. Training should be necessary but a good driving school with good training can make an impact with 40hrs of driver training. So a question should be: Are the proposed hours excessive for farmer or short haul drivers? Yes. Yes, it is.

Background

KAP launched a policy roundtable in June 2019. The roundtable provides another way for KAP members to have their say on issues and policy in a timely manner from the comfort of their own home. The roundtable members receive short surveys once a month on a variety of topics.

So far, we have nine people on the roundtable and will work to increase that over time. The sample size is very small, so the results are not representative but are still interesting and provide some indication as to the potential for this communications vehicle.

More than half of the roundtable farmers currently have a Class 1 license and one-third indicated that they or someone in their family plans to get a Class 1 license after September 1, 2020

Q1 Do you or anyone in your family have a Class 1 license at this time?

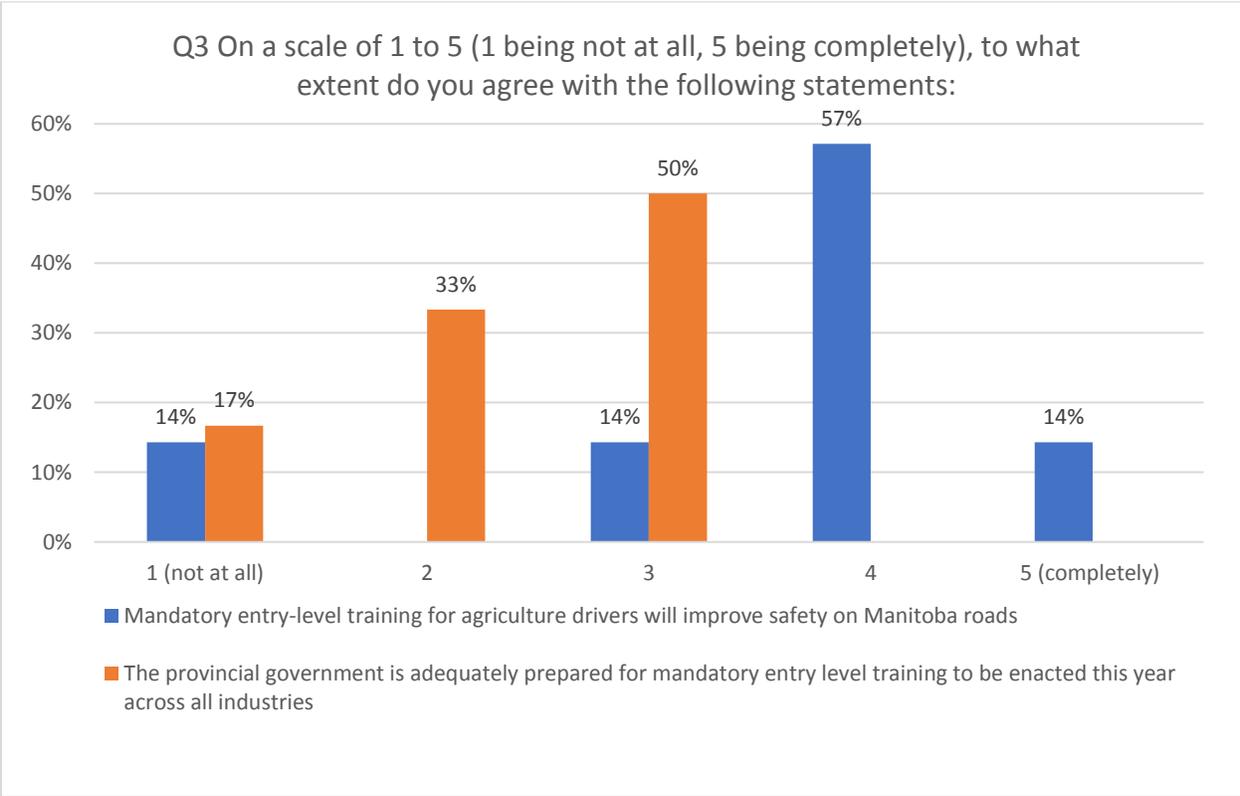
Yes 57%

No 43%

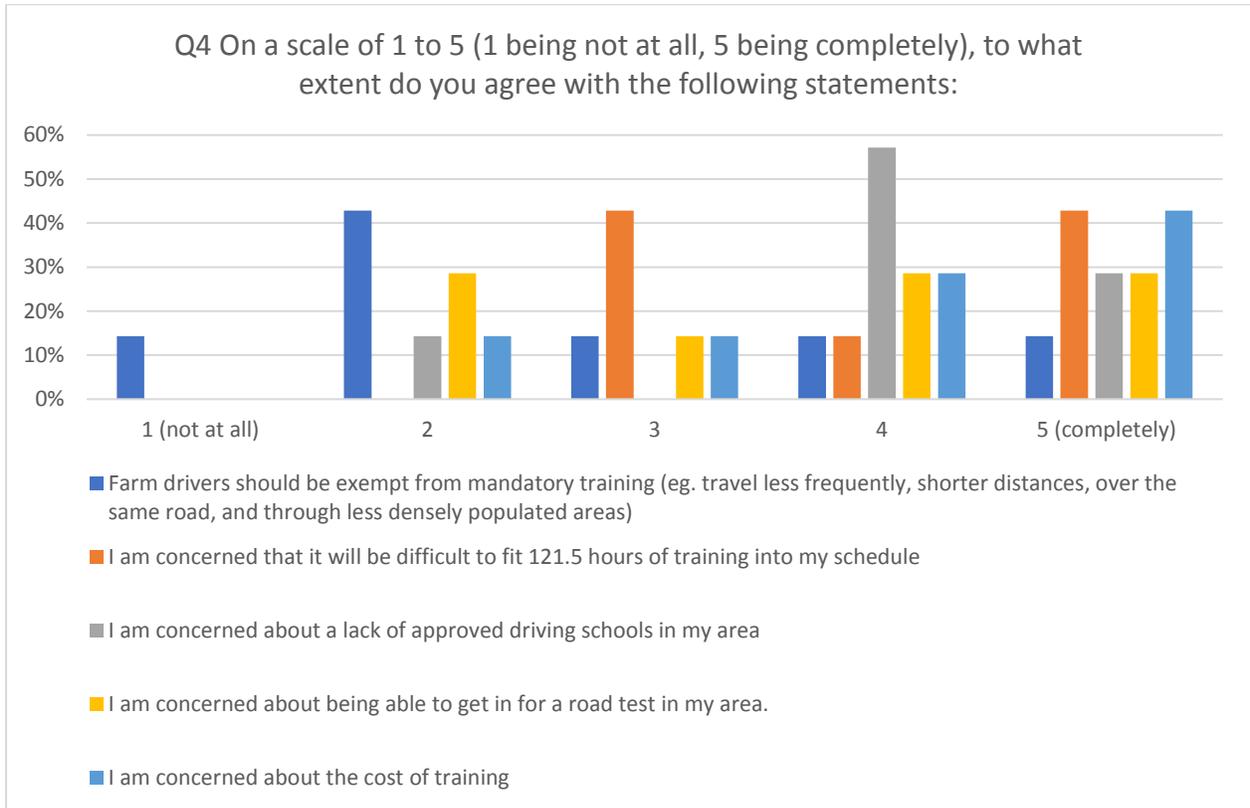
Q2 Do you or anyone in your family plan to get a Class 1 license:

Between now and September 1, 2019	0%
During the one-year deferral period (between September 1, 2019 and September 1, 2020)	0%
After September 1, 2020	29%
Not applicable	71%

Respondents generally agreed that MELT will improve safety on the road, but the province may not be adequately prepared for it



There was not a lot of call for a full exemption for farmers, but respondents indicated quite a bit of concern about fitting in the time, the lack of approved driving schools, the inability to get in for a road test, and the cost.



So far, the policy roundtable is a little older and little more crop-oriented than the industry as a whole

We asked some demographic questions to compare with Statistics Canada's 2016 Censure of Agriculture. We have not captured anyone under 35 yet and our respondents are mostly in crops and oilseeds, with some beef on the side.

