Media Release: STA calls for fair treatment of truck drivers during COVID-19

Regina, April 1, 2020—Truck Drivers being denied access to washroom facilities

April 1, 2020: As COVID-19 continues to run rampant and governments implement heightened measures to mitigate this pandemic, truck drivers are finding it increasingly difficult to access washroom facilities on the road as the STA continues to receive emails and phone-calls reporting the lack of access shippers and receivers are providing to truck drivers.

Susan Ewart, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Trucking Association says, “Truck Drivers are essential workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic and if it were not for them the economy would come to a grinding halt. Goods and services would not be picked up and moved to ensure the Saskatchewan shelves are stocked. It is important to be respectful around the needs of the drivers and allowing them access to washrooms is critical.”

Highly regarded Doctors and the World Health Organization have continued to say, washing your hands is paramount. The fact that some shipping warehouses in the Province are denying drivers access to their facilities is unwarranted and needs to stop. Drivers deserve to be treated as humans, and that means access to a washroom—this is a necessity. The STA is certain that trucking companies in Saskatchewan are taking all the appropriate steps with their drivers to ensure the highest standard of health and safety. At the end of the day, without truck drivers, shipping facilities would be unable to move their freight.

The supply chain must come together during this time to support each other. That means providing drivers with rightful access to washrooms at shipping facilities. Restaurants and diners are closed, and many small towns drivers go through are completely shut down. Some companies have even gone as far as investing in porta-potties due to the lack of access their drivers are receiving. For others, using the ditch is as close to a sanitary washroom as they can find, which is clearly unacceptable.

The STA wants to bring awareness to this critical issue and ask that all shipping facilities in Saskatchewan treat drivers in a respectful manner. Truck drivers have put themselves on the front line of the COVID-19 response bringing food and medical supplies around the province. The STA believes we are only effective together. Let’s continue to come together in a time where the world is pulling us a part.