



# **Forced Labour and Child Labour Statement 2023**

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Modern slavery, in particular human trafficking, is an international problem and takes a number of forms, including exploitation, forced labor and domestic servitude.

At Prairie Pride Natural Foods Ltd. (Prairie Pride) we acknowledge we have a responsibility in playing a role in eradicating modern slavery. Prairie Pride believes in the fair treatment and remuneration of employees. We comply with all applicable employment legislation and industrial instruments and no employee is paid less than the minimum wage. Prairie Pride also invests in the safety, health and wellbeing of its staff.

Prairie Pride has in place a negotiated collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) with UFCW Local 1400 for many of its employees and those not encompassed in these CBAs are equally compensated based at minimum in line with our CBAs.

This CBA sets out Prairie Pride's expectations of how its management team should relate to one another including how we employ people and abide by current employment laws.

Prairie Pride seeks to do business with suppliers that have similar values, ethics and sustainable business practices, including those related to human rights. Prairie Pride expects the organisations it deals with to have ethical workplace practices, where staff are treated fairly, equally and remunerated in accordance with the law.

This Modern Slavery Statement relates to our actions and activities for the Prairie Pride financial year from 1 January to the 31 December 2023 and complies with the mandatory reporting requirements for modern slavery statements in line with the Modern Slavery Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Patterson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ron Patterson**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## **Mandatory Reporting Criteria**

### **Requirement**

1. Identification of the reporting entity
2. Prairie Pride's reporting structure, operations and supply chains
3. Description of modern slavery risks in Prairie Pride's operations and supply chains
4. Description of actions taken by Prairie Pride, Governance and Due Diligence
5. Effectiveness of these actions
6. Consultation process
7. Other relevant information

## 1. Identification of the reporting entity

This statement relates to the responsibilities of Prairie Pride. It ensures that the company follows similar policies and procedures to undertake effective steps to identify and remove contemporary slavery.

## 2. Prairie Pride's reporting structure, operations and supply chains

### Structure

Prairie Pride is a privately owned, leading food manufacturer and supplier of fresh and frozen poultry locally, and across Canada.

With approximately 300 full time employees, Prairie Pride produces approximately 55% of Saskatchewan's fresh poultry and is strongly committed to delivering safe products of a consistently high quality together with exemplary customer service to a broad range of customers including major retailers, local restaurants, food service distributors and wholesalers.

### Operations and supply chains

Prairie Pride sources its goods and services from suppliers which predominately consists of live poultry, packaging, ingredients, consumables and uniforms. Some of the services we access are for cleaning, freight, waste management and network and communications to name a few. The majority of our suppliers are based within Canada, however there is a small minority of goods that are sourced from overseas.

At Prairie Pride, we source all of our raw materials from reputable, licensed producers to ensure our products are of the highest quality and standard.

The Prairie Pride website at <https://prairiepride.ca/> will provide you with a greater understanding of the business, our products and people and the areas we operate and customers we supply.

Predominately our operation consists of:

#### **Primary Processing and Distribution:**

Prairie Pride has one poultry processing plant located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and produces poultry products which are mainly distributed through major supermarkets, independent supermarkets, local restaurants, and food service wholesale distributors. There are approximately 300 people employed at the site.

### **3. Description of modern slavery risks in Prairie Pride's operations and supply chains**

#### **Operations**

At Prairie Pride we consider that we are a low risk of modern slavery practices as we have no operations outside of Canada.

The vast majority of employees employed by Prairie Pride are employed directly. Prairie Pride employees are covered by negotiated collective bargaining agreements with UFCW local 1400. These negotiated agreements cover key areas including wages, hours of work, overtime conditions, additional remuneration, and leave entitlements. Where the relevant employees are not covered by a collective agreement, they are typically employed under the terms of a modern award, on above award wages. For more senior positions, they are engaged under the terms of a common law contract, which is well above the minimum conditions. All Saskatchewan employees remain subject to the minimum conditions in the Saskatchewan Employment Act (SEA), which is regularly reviewed. These conditions are supported by a range of policies and procedures providing additional benefits. Prairie Pride's employment practices comply with all federal and provincial laws within Canada.

Our recruitment processes are strongly supported by Prairie Pride's policies and procedures. Employment decisions are made on the principle of merit, with no instances of forced labour. All employees are required to demonstrate their legal right to work in Canada. For those employees who hold authorized work permits, Prairie Pride regularly checks to ensure that an employee's work permit is still valid and any other limitations that may be placed on their work permit.

#### **Supply Chains**

Prairie Pride sources its products and services predominately from within Canada with minimal products coming from overseas.

Prairie Pride maintains a high ethical standard across its operations. It's our policy to ensure that the ethical standards that apply within our own business are also adhered to in our supply chain. The identification of risk within our supply chain is a key initial step in understanding what's required and prioritising actions.

While Prairie Pride predominately sources goods and services from within Canada, there are most likely inherent risks further down the supply chain. There may be situations where service or product supplied

to Prairie Pride by an organisation doesn't breach any modern slavery requirements, however if the organisation sourcing the products is getting them from overseas, this could be identified as a potential risk. An example could be the purchase of electronic equipment. Prairie Pride may be purchasing from a reputable supplier within Canada, however the item or components may be manufactured and produced overseas where modern slavery practices may be breached.

At Prairie Pride we operate a Supplier Approval Program which incorporates **Food Fraud Vulnerability Self Assessment** and **Food Defense & Food Fraud Plan**. While these tools are predominately food protection focused and used to mitigate food fraud/tampering, the current questionnaire has been reviewed and updated for 2024 to ensure all suppliers and service providers are providing feedback relating to social workplace accountability which does talk about their employees being legally able to work in Canada, paid the minimum wage, employees are appropriately trained, contracts comply with Canadian laws, etc.

#### 4. Description of actions taken by Prairie Pride, Governance and Due Diligence

RISK	ISSUE	ACTION
Corporate Clothing and other goods	Possible risks may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>forced labour is used to manufacture</li> <li>below minimum wages paid</li> <li>Unsafe work conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate suppliers will receive a letter from Prairie Pride which will outline third party requirements with regard to modern slavery.</li> </ul>

#### Operations

Prairie Pride seeks to do business with suppliers that have similar values, ethics and sustainable business practices, including those related to human rights. Prairie Pride expects the organisations it deals with to have ethical workplace practices, where staff are treated fairly, equally and remunerated in accordance with the law.

Prairie Pride has certain policies in place to assist in ensuring that modern slavery is not taking place in its business or operations. An example of such policies is:

- Recruitment Policy and Procedures:** all recruitment and selection procedures and decisions will reflect Prairie Pride's commitment to providing equal opportunity by assessing all potential candidates according to their skills, knowledge, qualifications and capabilities. No regard will be given to factors such as age, gender, marital status, race, religion, physical impairment or political opinions.
- Health & Safety Policy and Procedures:** all employees undergo orientation training to ensure they understand all hazards and risks that they may encounter during employment. We perform yearly refreshers of safety training, as well as monthly toolboxes, and special toolbox presentations to continue to ensure all employees' health, safety and welfare.

- **Harassment and Violence Policy:** Prairie Pride is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a harassment, bullying, and victimisation free workplace where all people are treated with dignity, courtesy, respect, and fairly on the basis of individual merit.

Other steps Prairie Pride takes to prevent and protect against modern slavery include negotiating Collective Bargaining Agreements with UFCW local 1400 and providing all employees with the right to bargain their employment terms and conditions.

## 5. Effectiveness of these actions

Our policies define the standards of behaviour expected of all associated with Prairie Pride, including suppliers. These policies set out Prairie Pride's expectations of how representatives should relate to one another including how we employ people and abide by current employment laws, and also our expectations of suppliers.

## 6. Consultation process

Prairie Pride has involved its key management teams – Operations, Quality Control and Human Resources, in order to prepare and complete this Statement.

## 7. Other Relevant Information

While Prairie Pride is confident that as a result of all of the external audits conducted at Prairie Pride's facility we meet the modern slavery requirements for our immediate business operations, there is still some work that needs to be done across all of our suppliers in the supply chain area. This includes:

- Continued improvement of our orientation processes to ensure all employees are trained and aware of Prairie Pride's commitment to ensure social welfare and accountability.
- Continued improvement of our Supplier Approval Program to define the standards of behaviour expected of all Prairie Pride suppliers.

By focusing on the above, this will ensure that we as a business are reasonably confident that the suppliers, we source our goods and services from, are meeting the modern slavery requirements.