



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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February 3, 2015

The Honourable Jeff Leal
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Leal:

Re: Ensuring financial viability of provincially inspected abattoirs

As you know, local provincially inspected abattoirs are essential to the marketing chain of Ontario's livestock industry. These facilities provide farmers with processing services that enable them to sell their meats to local consumers. These abattoirs are a vital link in the local food systems within our communities.

As the Ontario government looks to enhance production levels, especially for beef in northern Ontario, it is important to ensure the financial viability of provincially inspected abattoirs that have typically low operating margins.

Therefore, we request that your ministry, in consultation with provincially inspected abattoirs, identify initiatives the Ontario government will take to ensure provincially inspected abattoirs remain financially viable.

We thank you for your commitment to working with the farm community and other stakeholders to ensure a strong and successful agriculture industry. And we would forward to your response on this specific request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McCabe', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Don McCabe,
President

cc: Ms. Deb Stark, Deputy Minister
Ms Laurie Nicol, Executive Director, Ontario Independent Meat Processors
Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors