



**Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

**Ontario AgriCentre**

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January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Hon Ted McMeekin  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 2E5

Dear Minister McMeekin,

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and our 36,000 farm family members and supporters, I would like to applaud your decision to not grant municipalities the authority to develop a municipal land transfer tax.

The introduction of such a tax would have had negative impacts on Ontario's economy, particularly in the agricultural sector, as a land based industry. The capital costs of taking over a farm business including land, buildings and machinery is a struggle for young and beginning farmers. A municipal land transfer tax would have been an additional cost and would have complicated the process of passing the farm down to the next generation and maintaining the tradition of the Ontario family farm.

Currently, [certain transfers of farmland](#) are exempt from the provincial land transfer tax, as recognition by the Ontario Government of the importance of maintaining Ontario's tradition of the family farm. OFA applauds the Ontario Government for putting the current exemption in place. However, we are concerned about the ambiguous wording in [O.Reg 697](#) which has denied farm families who established a family farm corporation prior to the farmland transfer from using this exemption. We will continue to work on this issue and will be bringing it to the attention of Minister Sousa, as we approach the release of the provincial budget.

Thank you for your consideration, OFA looks forward to continue working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McCabe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don McCabe,  
President

cc: Hon Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance