



**Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

**Ontario AgriCentre**

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Ontario's Red Tape Challenge

Contact Address: [redtapechallenge@ontario.ca](mailto:redtapechallenge@ontario.ca)

Hon. Brad Duguid  
Minister of Economic Development and Growth  
Hearst Block 8th Flr, 900 Bay St,  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2E1

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

Dear Sirs,

Re: Food Processing Sector - Red Tape Challenge

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing 36,000 family farm businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of our robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

OFA is pleased to provide its perspective and support for the Ontario government initiatives to address outdated and burdensome regulations.

OFA has continually raised the need for regulatory reforms over the years. We appreciated the opportunity to be involved in Ontario's Open for Business (OfB) Sector Strategy and lead the Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector Consultations in 2011. In the August 2011 final report on the Business Sector Strategy: Agriculture and Agri-Food, "the OFA recommended that OMAFRA adopt an inclusive consultative model that actively involves the agriculture and agri-food sector in the regulatory development process." In response to that recommendation, OMAFRA established the OfB Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector Consultation Forum, in which OFA is pleased to continue to participate, to improve the way regulations are developed and to look at existing regulations to ensure they are effective and not detrimental to our competitiveness.

In regards to the Red Tape Challenge, we're encouraged that the Ontario government is going through an open, public review of a significant list of existing regulations. Simplifying and streamlining regulations to make it easier to do business in Ontario is a worthwhile goal.

We note there are 171 regulations suggested as part of the current food processing sector review. Many of these regulations impact OFA members. Therefore, we have encouraged our



members to share their feedback directly through this consultation. We understand that more than 200 comments about how our food processing regulations can be improved have been received to date.

As you know, changes to these 171 regulations would impact the entire food value chain. Therefore, we offer OFA's commitment to help review all comments and provide our advice and assistance on developing the action plan to address and improve existing regulations affecting the agri-food sector.

We are keen to hear how OFA may continue to be involved in developing the plan to improve or reduce existing regulations affecting our sector, while still protecting the public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McCabe', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Don McCabe  
President

CC: OFA Board of Directors