



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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July 13, 2016

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

Dear Minister Leal,

Re: Open for Business Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector Consultation Forum

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 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 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."¹ In response to that recommendation, OMAFRA established the OfB Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector Consultation Forum, which OFA is pleased to continue to participate.

Given this Forum only meets on an annual to semi-annually basis, OFA proposes that working groups be established as the need arises to investigate issues and bring back recommendations to the Forum.

A similar structure was employed during the development of the OfB Sector Strategy for Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector. In fact, there were working groups established for each of the priority areas identified by the OfB Roundtable for the agriculture and agri-food sector. These working groups included staff from OFA and other stakeholder groups, along with senior government officials from OMAFRA and other ministries.

As an initial working group, OFA proposes that a working group be established to develop recommendations for issues related to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO). OFA identifies the following items such a working group could investigate:

- Roundabout design specifications need to accommodate the dimensions of wide farm machinery;
- Streamlining MTO requirements for obtaining Farm Plates;

¹ <https://www.ontario.ca/page/agriculture-and-agri-food-sector-meeting-report>

- Roadside loading of sugar beets and other crops at harvest;
- MTO enforcement inconsistencies and status of the MTO Farm Guide;
- Moving telehandlers used for farm purposes between farms;
- Bio-solid trucks traveling on roadways;
- Right-of-ways for drainage across 400 series roadways; and
- Need to retain Glanworth Rd. overpass over Hwy 401

We look forward to continuing to work with OMAFRA and its partner ministries to ensure red tape issues facing our sector are appropriately addressed.

We look forward to your response to this proposal.

Sincerely,



Don McCabe
President

cc: Hon. Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation
Deputy Minister Dr. Deb Stark, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs