



**Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

**Ontario AgriCentre**

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November 22, 2017

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
1341 Baseline Road  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Via email to: [Lawrence.MacAulay@canada.ca](mailto:Lawrence.MacAulay@canada.ca)

Dear Minister MacAulay:

**Re: Food Policy Governance Innovation and a National Food Policy Council**

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) fully recognizes the importance of, and supports a strong governance structure for *A Food Policy for Canada*. Thus, the OFA adds our voice, on behalf of Ontario farmers, to the call for a National Food Policy Council per the proposal sent by many of our colleagues on October 2nd.

OFA supports the creation of this new independent multi-stakeholder body to provide consistent monitoring, well-researched advice, and broad stakeholder support for *A Food Policy for Canada*.

At the National Food Policy consultations recently held in Guelph, the representative from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada noted that previous food strategy efforts have not succeeded because of the lack of a governance structure. We agree with this assessment and, therefore, with the efforts of the food and civil society sectors to create a Council to proactively engage with these diverse stakeholders to provide ongoing input into the implementation of *A Food Policy for Canada*.

Equally important, the newly formed Council would help build collaboration, elevate and coordinate programs, and drive change amongst stakeholders to accelerate progress towards the food policy's objectives.

As you know, the details about structure and membership have not yet been finalized by the stakeholders who have been involved thus far. Given government support for the proposal, we are committed to further dialogue over the coming months to elaborate more detailed options and proposals.

Minister, the OFA is committed to working with the government to ensure that Canada is a leader not only in terms of food production, but also in terms of food policy.

Sincerely,

Keith Currie  
President