



**Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

**Ontario AgriCentre**

100 Stone Road West, Suite 206, Guelph, Ontario N1G 5L3  
Tel: (519) 821-8883 • Fax: (519) 821-8810 • [www.ofa.on.ca](http://www.ofa.on.ca)

December 18, 2017

Mr. Kevin Perry  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Open for Business Division  
Ministry of Economic Development and Growth  
35th Floor, 250 Yonge St  
Toronto, ON  
M5B 2L7

Dear Mr. Perry,

**Re: 17-MEDG006 Canadian Free Trade Agreement - Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table**

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 37,000 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.

The Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) is an ambitious initiative to strengthen Canada's internal trade framework and produce tangible benefits for businesses and consumers. OFA offers our congratulations on your appointment to the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT), the federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) body appointed to oversee this new process. We believe that the collaborative development of regulatory measures is critical in addressing the barriers faced by businesses in Ontario, and our fellow provinces.

In Ontario, the agri-food sector is an economic powerhouse; generating \$37.6 billion in GDP and employing over 807,000 Ontarians. Competitive agri-food production requires affordable energy, access to broadband internet and innovative technology, a skilled workforce, and the goals of the CFTA - a significant reduction in barriers to trade, investment and labour mobility. We believe improved communication and collaboration across FPT governments will result in better decision-making and mutually-beneficial regulation for business development, growth and innovation.

In early 2017, Finance Minister Bill Morneau's Advisory Council on Economic Growth identified agri-food as a key economic sector with untapped potential for growth. The Chair, Dominic Barton, offered a vision statement: "Canada will become the trusted global leader in safe, nutritious, and sustainable food for the 21st century". We have the potential to be a global leader, but we also have tremendous opportunities here at home to strengthen interprovincial trade and streamline our regulatory processes along the value chain; from field to fork.



During RCT discussions, OFA encourages you to bring forward issues that reduce internal trade barriers and promote smart regulation in the Canadian agri-food sector that will further develop agri-food as an economic powerhouse; producing prosperity for the benefit of all Ontarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Currie', is written over a large, faint, light-colored watermark of the signature.

Neil Currie,  
General Manager