



**Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

**Ontario AgriCentre**

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September 18, 2018

The Honourable Rod Phillips  
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
77 Wellesley Street West  
11th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Phillips;

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) believes that getting the fundamentals of the regulatory process right is the cornerstone of a sustainable farm and food sector.

Farmers are integral partners in managing the natural environment. We rely on the air, soil and water to conduct our business, and as such, have a vested interest in the sustainability of these resources. Because of the fact that farmers interact intimately with the natural environment on a daily basis, an agricultural perspective to water resources management is critical.

With the stewardship role that farmers play, it is essential that the governmental processes in place to protect the environment work for our members. OFA is concerned with the roll out of the Permit to Take Water (PTTW) online permit application process. Farmers attempting to apply for agricultural permits online may be unable to do so.

Given this, OFA requests that the paper-based application process continue until an effective online application process for agricultural permits is available. There were also substantial concerns with the beta PTTW online permit application as it applies to agricultural permits, that must be fixed before the online application goes live.

As part of the review of the PTTW process, which is to occur during the moratorium on new water bottling permits that ends in January 2019, OFA is an advocate for a simplified, streamlined process for agricultural permit renewals (in conjunction with the online system) in situations where there have not been any material changes on the farm with respect to the permit.

Congratulations once again on your appointment as Minister. We look forward to working with you and your Ministry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Currie', written in a cursive style.

Keith Currie  
President