

December 18, 2019

Hon. Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1B3

Dear Minister Hardeman,

On behalf of the OFA, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time you and Randy Pettapiece spent with us last week at Queen's Park and allowing us to share with you the priorities for Ontario's agriculture and food sector.

As you well know, Ontario's diverse and innovative agri-food industry feeds our population, fuels our rural communities and drives the provincial economy, generating more than 837,000 jobs and contributing more than \$47 billion to Ontario's annual GDP. From farmers to our diverse food processing industry, our agri-food sector is a powerhouse of possibilities.

This meeting provided us a welcome opportunity to express our appreciation for your support in seeing the proposed repeal of the Line Fences Act dropped from Bill 132, as well as sharing our strong support for the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act. We have followed up on our commitment to encourage Ontario's livestock and poultry farmers and member organizations to express their support for Bill 156 as well.

Since our meeting on December 9th, we are extremely pleased to see announcements regarding government commitment to rural infrastructure needs such as natural gas expansion as well as launch of the first Northern Ontario Residential Broadband Project, part of the Next Generation Network Program, two platforms of OFA's Producing Prosperity campaign.

OFA looks forward to continuing the conversation with you and working together to further strengthen Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President