

January 9, 2020

Ms. Andrea Khanjin, MPP
Barrie-Innisfil
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Dear MPP Khanjin,

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time you spent with us last month at Queen's Park and allowing us to share with you the priorities for Ontario's agriculture and food sector. With strong support and investments in our rural communities, we can unlock continued economic growth opportunities and drive a healthy economy that benefits all Ontarians.

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.

OFA is Canada's largest general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. Ontario's agricultural and agri-food sector is among the most diverse agriculture sectors in North America. With over 200 different agricultural commodities grown and raised right here in Ontario, that's more than any other Canadian province and most U.S. states.

As discussed with you in our meeting, the long-term sustainability of our agri-food sector depends upon building trust, awareness and understanding with consumers. We believe the foundation of that work begins in the classroom. In addition, our sector is in need of both skilled and unskilled labour to sustain and grow a local, sustainable and secure food supply. As such, we need to work to encourage youth to investigate the variety of career opportunities in the agri-food sector.

We are enclosing information kits about AgScape a partner organization dedicated to building programs and resources for the classroom, ensuring agriculture and food topics are integrated into the Ontario classroom, both in terms of food literacy and career opportunities.



Again, thank you for your time meeting with us. OFA looks forward to continuing the conversation with you and working together to strengthen Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Currie", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Keith Currie
President

cc: AgScape 8560 Tremaine Rd, Milton, ON L9T 4Z1