

December 23, 2019

Ms. Amanda Simard, MPP
Glengarry-Prescott-Russell
Room 425, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A8

Dear Ms. Simard,

On behalf of the OFA, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time you spent with us earlier in December 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.

OFA is Canada's largest general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. 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.

Following our meeting, we were very pleased to see the timely 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.

Also, as per your request, I would like to share with you a joint OpEd piece written collectively by Ontario's livestock and poultry organizations expressing our support and need for Bill 156, the Security from Trespass and Protection of Food Safety Act, 2019.

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

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President