

April 3, 2020

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation
77 Wellesley Street West
3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Mulroney;

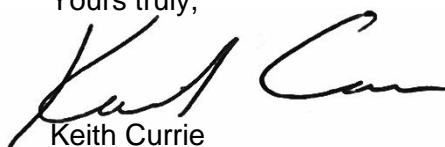
The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is joining with the Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA) and Food and Beverage Ontario (FBO) and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) to request an exemption from Ontario's "reduced load period" weight restrictions on all roads and highways to facilitate the movement of foodstuffs, from critical farm inputs and products necessary for their production of crops through to delivery and distribution of essential finished food products.

Due to the current situation relating to COVID-19, in Quebec, the ministère des Transports **has removed the reduced load limits during the thaw period** as of March 25 for vehicles or combinations of vehicles carrying only food products, sanitary and medical supplies, pharmaceutical product and goods necessary to produce food products,
<https://www.transports.gouv.qc.ca/en/camionnage/degel-periode-restrictions-charges/Pages/periode-degel.aspx>

Manitoba is also easing spring road restrictions to help make sure essential goods get to where they're going during the COVID-19 outbreak.
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/srr/summary.html>

On behalf of the entire agri-food industry – from field to fork we respectfully request you provide a similar exemption from Ontario's "reduced load period" weight restrictions to expedite the movement of foodstuffs, products necessary for their productions and critical farm inputs.

Yours truly,



Keith Currie

KC/pj

cc: The Honourable Ernie Hardeman; Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Norm Beal; Food and Beverage Ontario
Dave Bутtenham; Ontario Agri Business Association
Rocco Rossi; Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Markus Haerle, Grain Farmers of Ontario
OFA Board of Directors