

June 8, 2020

The Honourable Bill Morneau
Minister of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G5

Via Email: bill.morneau@canada.ca

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Road Tower 7, Floor 9, Room 149
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0C5

Via Email: aafc.minister-ministre.aac@canada.ca

Dear Ministers,

Re: Program Implementation of Federal Announcements of May 5, 2020 and May 19, 2020

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of a robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

In May, your government announced additional programming designed to assist businesses impacted by the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and the measures put in place to control the spread of the virus. The May 5, 2020 announcement included the \$77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund, the \$125 million in funding for AgriRecovery Initiatives for cattle and hog producers, and an initial \$50 million for the Surplus Food Purchase Program. The May 19, 2020 announcement included changes to the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) eligibility criteria to allow many more small businesses access to the CEBA.

Unfortunately, potential program participants have not been able to access these initiatives because they have not been implemented as of this date. We ask that you make it a priority to ensure the implementation of these announced initiatives is not further delayed. Many Ontario farmers who have not been able to access support through any other program means to date are anxious to access this program and are hopeful that the expanded eligibility criteria will make it possible to access these dollars.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

cc: Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister
Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Mary Robinson, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture
OFA Board of Directors