

June 8, 2020

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street
18th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Jones;

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.

The OFA Board of Directors adopted a resolution from the Wellington Federation of Agriculture calling for OFA to "lobby the appropriate ministries to increase curriculum time at the Ontario Police College devoted to training in the following subject areas: agriculture, livestock, animal activism and the Highway Traffic Act as it relates to farm machinery." Although most graduates from the Ontario Police College have little direct experience in agriculture-related issues and legislation, these recent graduates generally begin their police career serving in agricultural or rural areas or Ontario. The lack of time spent teaching agriculture-related issues and legislation leads to conflicts over the application of laws related to agriculture, livestock, animal activism and farm vehicles on the roads. OFA requests the Ministry of the Solicitor General collaborate with partner ministries to enhance the teaching time and curriculum dedicated to agriculture-related issues and legislation. OFA offers to provide its perspective on the key agriculture-related issues and legislation that farmers believe are commonly misunderstood.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

KC/pj

cc: The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
OFA Board of Directors