

October 7, 2020

Mr. Larry Maguire
658 10th Street
Unit B
Brandon, Manitoba
R7A 4G5

Via: Larry.Maguire@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Maguire,

RE: Bill C-208

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing more than 38,000 farm family members across the province. OFA has a strong voice for our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. We are passionate and dedicated to ensuring the agri-food sector and our rural communities are included, consulted and considered in any new and changing legislation that impacts the sustainability and growth of our farm businesses.

Ontario's diverse and innovative agri-food sector is a powerhouse for the province – growing and producing more than 200 farm and food products, fuelling our rural communities and driving the provincial economy by generating more than 860,000 jobs and contributing over \$47 billion to Ontario's annual GDP. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses and their communities.

OFA would like to thank you for sponsoring Private Members Bill C-208, an amendment to the *Income Tax Act* (transfer of small business or farm or fishing corporation). OFA fully supports this Bill and encourages all members of Parliament to support it as well.

This Bill supports OFA's efforts to help facilitate the transfer of the family farm to the next generation. Bill C-208 will address the current wording within the *Income Tax Act* that financially penalizes a farmer if they choose to transfer the farm business to family member as opposed to an anonymous 3rd party. This Bill will help reverse the current financial disincentives to transfer the farm business to a child and strengthen the tradition of the family farm in Ontario and Canada.

OFA also supports the requirement that the purchaser must not dispose of the shares of the farm business within 60 months of the purchase. This will ensure the proposed changes help facilitate the transfer to a child who intends to continue the farm business.

Thank you for supporting Canadian farmers on this issue.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

cc: Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Mary Robinson, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Alistair MacGregor, NDP Agriculture & Agri-Food critic (alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca)
John Barlow, Conservative Agriculture & Agri-Food critic (John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca)
Perron, Yves, Bloc Québécois Agriculture & Agri-Food critic (Yves.Perron@parl.gc.ca)
Kate Storey, Green Party Agriculture critic (kate.storey@greenparty.ca)
OFA Board of Directors