

March 15, 2021

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
1 Stone Rd West
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Dear Minister Hardeman,

RE: Support for Ontario's Freshwater Fish Farming Industry in Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) proudly represents more than 38,000 farm family members across the province, supporting our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. OFA works to ensure the agri-food sector and our rural communities are included, consulted and considered in any new and changing legislation that impacts the sustainability of our farm businesses. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses and their communities.

Freshwater fish farming is part of Ontario's and Canada's strong agriculture and agri-food sector. The freshwater aquaculture sector in Canada represents 3% of our country's aquaculture production, with the majority of production concentrated in Ontario and Quebec.

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) works to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. Currently, aquaculture is largely excluded from the majority of programs, with the exception of limited programs concerning export marketing and traceability. This puts the aquaculture industry at a competitive disadvantage relative to coastal marine fish production which is supported by regional funds via Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

OFA recognizes the role of freshwater fish farming as part of a sustainable and thriving agriculture and agri-food sector. OFA supports the Ontario Aquaculture Association's ask that freshwater fish farmers and processors be included in the next iteration of CAP.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld
President

cc: RJ Taylor, Managing Director, Ontario Aquaculture Association
OFA Board of Directors