



ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION ONTARIO
Growing good things – together!



August 6, 2021

Deputy Minister John Kelly
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 4Y2

Dear Deputy:

Earlier this Spring, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture reached out to request your support in bringing together a meeting of Ontario farm leaders to review and discuss the current state of the province's priorities, goals and values in terms of a farm environmental agenda.

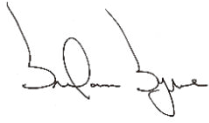
This idea of a forum to discuss shared environmental goals and objectives of the Ontario agricultural sector was strongly supported by the organizations that make up EcoAg. While EcoAg has been a forum for these discussions in recent years, we recognized the membership is not broad enough to be considered representative of the Ontario agricultural sector. It is important that a broad cross section of groups be at this table to be the collective voice of agriculture in setting environmental priorities and objectives.

All of our groups are involved in diverse committees, working groups and organizations with environmental goals and objectives but there isn't one table that brings them all together in one place. The OFA has offered to pull together a single meeting, inviting broad farm leadership to the table and invite both OMAFRA and MECP to come and present a vision of the Made in Ontario Environment Plan as well as the province's Climate Change goals and objectives for the next 1-3 years. It has been sometime since the Made in Ontario Environment Plan was reviewed and discussed with farm leaders and several of the faces have changed within the Ministry at that time, as well as on our side.

We would appreciate your support and confirmation of OMAFRA participation in such a discussion. It's our hope that after this initial meeting and discussion and establishing of a baseline understanding of the current state – the farm leaders would continue this discussion, identify shared priorities and values and areas where industry and government could work together to drive the farm environmental agenda forward in a mutually beneficial manner for all stakeholders.

Your time and consideration of this request is appreciated. We would like to schedule this meeting of farm leaders in the month of August or early September if time permits.

Sincerely,



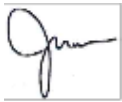
Brendan Byrne, Chair
Grain Farmers of Ontario



Peggy Brekveld, President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture



Arno Schober, Vice Chair
Ontario Pork



Jan VanderHout
Chair, ECO Ag
Chair, OFVGA Environment and Conservation Section



Marc Carere, Vice Chair
EcoAg
Ontario Sheep Farmers