

Meeting with Minister Nina Tangri

August 23rd, 2021

via Zoom

Attendees: OFA – Peggy Brekveld and Tracey Arts
Minister Tangri (Mississauga—Streetsville)
Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
Member, Standing Committee on Justice Policy

Peggy and Tracey introduced themselves to the Minister

Minister Tangri – looking forward to getting back to getting back to the social aspect at Queen's Park and OFA's events

Peggy – a couple of things to ask about
- will make a difference to government and ourselves

Nutrient Management Plans

Tracey – Nutrient Management Plans – currently need to renew every 5 years
- would like to get an extension on those – if no significant changes to them
- cost to government – cost to farmers
- no cost benefit if nothing has changed
- better ways to make sure that nothing has changed – fees are not necessary

Peggy - renewals can vary between farms

Minister Tangri – appreciates the feedback
- does not want to increase burden
- need to do analysis
- especially on larger livestock farms
- talking to OMAFRA about it
- trying to break down the silos and the barriers between the Ministries

Peggy - if the Minister would like detailed analysis please let her know

Minister Tangri - Agrisuite Application – new tool – should be able to capture instead of doing manually

Peggy gave an example from her own farm and the reporting it entails

- each field – types of soil
- still takes a significant amount of time online

Minister Tangri – trying to do the best on her side to support the industries

Red Tape Reduction for Local Abattoirs

Tracey – asking for a review of the regulations to reduce the red tape for local abattoirs

- depending on what inspector is present the interpretation can sometimes not be clear
- more simplicity feedback is needed

Peggy – during covid – the weakest link was found to be in processing

- looking for ways to make sure our abattoirs feel healthy and not being read differently
- Food Safety and Quality Act Review is last dated 2001 - probably time to review again

Minister Tangri – always room to review

Peggy – regulations interpreted differently by different people

Minister Tangri – will pass this onto the Ministry

Natural Heritage – setbacks

Peggy – the next issue it to do with planning provisions

- Natural Heritage – setbacks
- as a farming community asked to put building 30 – 50 meters away from a natural heritage system
- sometimes not the best answer

Minister Tangri - need to make sure that it is addressed

- could be done on an individual basis?
- do municipalities or regions deal with it or is it passed on to the province?

Peggy – a province guideline would be helpful

Minister Tangri - will have a discussion with the Minister

Processing Sector - Labour

Minister Tangri - meat producing capacity??

- issue in the amount being processed??

Peggy - regulations have continued to grow and feel overregulated especially the abattoirs

- may be \$200,000 in revisions in a year to keep up with the regulations
- some things have been done to support such as TFW's but there are still hold backs
- the processing industry was not designed for having people work 6 ft apart
- very challenging for the processing industry

Minister Tangri – it is trying to find the labour to do the jobs

- biggest issue that all of her colleagues are hearing
- has heard also others saying they want the federal government to wind down CERB which may help to get people back to the workforce
- difficult trying to find the skilled labour in every industry

Peggy – would like to see labour as a pillar - FPT

- thank you for the push on the TFW and seasonal ag worker program – so important to our industry

Minister Tangri - need to think outside the box

- looking at many other ideas where we can reduce regulatory burden
- looking at putting more things on-line
- finding ways to do it better

Peggy - OFA will follow up about the NMPs and labour in the future

- if you would like to reach out please do – to Peggy and Tracey
- or if there are ways to move things forward

Minister Tangri – she has potentially a red tape package coming out in the fall

- will be looking for OFA's input
- will have conversations with Minister Thompson in the future as well