



September 19, 2022

Hon. Michael Kerzner
18th Floor, 25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Sent via email: michael.kerzner@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Kerzner:

Re: *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019*

Farmers and farm organizations endorse the humane treatment of all animals: livestock, poultry, domestic pets, working animals and wildlife. Ontario farmers and their family/staff are committed to farm animal welfare by providing the best care to ensure the health and welfare of their animals is met as outlined in the national codes of practice. We firmly believe in and advocate for the humane treatment of all animals, including livestock and poultry. Ontario's farmers and farm organizations are concerned about the health, safety, welfare, and comfort of the animals under our care.

As you know the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act, 2019* came into effect on January 1, 2020, replacing the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) Act, 1990*. This new statute was welcomed by many commodity groups and farm organizations as it brought with it an updated, more uniform approach to delivering animal welfare enforcement in Ontario. At the time Provincial farm organizations and commodity groups worked together with the government in the development of this new animal protection model, designed to keep our entire industry accountable and responsible for the care and protection of animals in the province.

The Ontario PAWS Act is now more than two years into effect. During the consultation process of this Act in 2019, our groups requested a review of the PAWS Act three to five years after it was enacted to ensure it was operating appropriately. Given the length of time that has passed and now with some experience working through actual cases involving livestock, our groups feel a review is warranted now to ensure the process is functioning as intended and meeting expectations. A review of the Act would also allow evaluation of the current processes involved in animal welfare investigations, training of inspectors, data collection and reporting, identifying any gaps in the process.

Our groups respectfully request a meeting to discuss this request and how the PAWS Act can better protect animal welfare in the province and meet the expectations of all concerned. Specifically, Ontario's livestock commodity groups and farm organizations would like to discuss the seizure/removal process of animals, utilizing mental health services in animal welfare cases, the importance of data collection and sharing, and training of inspectors. Our groups would like to work together through the review process to help identify possible policy or process improvements and next steps to strengthen the protection of farm animal welfare in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe, President
Beef Farmers of Ontario



Peggy Brekveld, President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture



Murray Opsteen, Chair
Chicken Farmers of Ontario



John de Bruyn, Chair
Ontario Pork



Ed Scharringa, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario



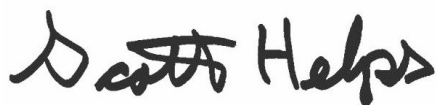
John Hemsted, Chair
Ontario Sheep Farmers



Murray Sherk, Chair
Dairy Farmers of Ontario



Brian Ricker, Chair
Turkey Farmers of Ontario



Scott Helps, Chair
Egg Farmers of Ontario



Pascal Bouilly, Chair
Veal Farmers of Ontario



William Bearss, Chair
Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg & Chick Commission