

August 30, 2022

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
1341 Baseline Road Tower 7, Floor 9, Room 149  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0C5

Sent via email to: [aafc.minister-ministre.aac@canada.ca](mailto:aafc.minister-ministre.aac@canada.ca)

Dear Minister Bibeau:

**Re: Initiating an Agri-Recovery assessment of vineyard damage in Ontario**

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and our 38,000 farm family members, I am writing to express our support for the request made by the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs the Honourable Lisa Thompson on August 16, 2022, to initiate an Agri-Recovery assessment of the financial impact due to severe overwinter damage across many vineyards in Ontario.

The damage has been particularly devastating in the Niagara region. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) estimates that up to 50% of the vineyards across the Niagara region have been damaged due to the abnormal weather over the winter and spring. The damage caused by this winterkill will extend beyond the 2022 growing season and will result in extraordinary costs for producers to clear and replant established vines that have been damaged.

We encourage AAFC to work closely with OMAFRA and begin the formal process of assessing the damage as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support of Ontario agriculture, we look forward to the opportunity to continue working with your ministry on behalf of all farm families in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld  
President

cc: Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
John Kelly, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Matthias Oppenlaender, Chair of the Grape Growers of Ontario  
OFA Board of Directors