

Quote: 277982, 277956

5/18/2023

Ms. Peggy Brekveld
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
200 Hanlon Creek Boulevard
Guelph ON N1C 0A1

Dear Ms. Brekveld:

Thank you for providing comments on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS) Discussion Document on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and for writing on the development of a national agricultural land strategy.

First, I would like to say how much I appreciated engaging with you at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting in March. I commend your efforts to support producers and rural communities and to advocate for a sustainable agriculture and food sector.

As highlighted in the Discussion Paper, the SAS will help set a shared direction for collective action to improve environmental performance over the long term to advance the sustainability, competitiveness and vitality of the sector.

I am grateful for the time invested by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to read and provide detailed feedback on the Discussion Document. Please rest assured that this input has been shared with the appropriate team within my department to inform the work to develop the SAS.

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With regard to your comments on a national agricultural land strategy, the Government of Canada recognizes the vital importance of a resilient agriculture and agri-food sector, including the need to protect and preserve farmland. As you are aware, agriculture is a shared jurisdiction in Canada. As the provinces and territories have primary responsibility for land use planning and resource management, developing a national agriculture land strategy would require strong engagement and support from the provinces and territories.

Through the development of the SAS, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will continue to work with industry, provinces and territories to explore opportunities to improve the resilience of the agriculture and agri-food sector, including potential opportunities to engage on an agricultural land strategy.

I have shared your letter and recommendations with officials leading the SAS for further consideration. I look forward to future collaboration with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to improve the sustainability of our agriculture and agri-food sector.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Bibeau', with a stylized, flowing script.

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, PC, MP