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Minister of Finance | Ministre des Finances
PETER BETHLENFALVY

880-2023-1002

Peggy Brekveld
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Peggy.Brekveld@ofa.on.ca

Dear Ms. Brekveld:

Thank you for your letter regarding the sales of spirits alongside beer and wine in grocery stores forwarded to me by the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario.

I appreciate the role that the agri-food sector and spirits industry play in Ontario's alcohol marketplace and their contributions to the province's economy in terms of dollars, jobs and tourism.

The government has worked to expand beverage alcohol sales, including spirits, in Ontario. In the 2021 *Ontario Budget*, the government announced that eligible spirits producers would be permitted to sell spirits at farmers' markets. We have also taken action to deliver on this commitment by allowing bars and restaurants to offer mixed cocktails as part of food takeout or delivery orders on a permanent basis. Further, we have worked to expand sales of beverage alcohol, including spirits, at 191 new LCBO Convenience Outlets in Ontario since 2019.

With the reforms made by our government over the past few years, Ontario's alcohol marketplace has changed significantly. We are continuing the necessary work to consider our vision for the future of alcohol in the province.

The government supports meaningful change to alcohol sales in Ontario. This is one of many priorities for the government and we look forward to continuing to deliver choice and convenience for Ontarians.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter Bethlenfalvy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance

c: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
 The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
 Brendan Byrne, Grain Farmers of Ontario
 Jan Westcott, Spirits Canada