

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

Via Email: [aaafc.minister-ministre.aac@canada.ca](mailto:aaafc.minister-ministre.aac@canada.ca)

Dear Minister Bibeau:

**RE: Agri-recovery initiatives for Ontario grape growers and beekeepers**

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and our 38,000 farm family members, I am writing to thank you for the announcement on June 22<sup>nd</sup> of a \$10-million investment in new Agri-recovery initiatives for Ontario grape growers and beekeepers, funded by the Canadian and Ontario governments. As you are well aware, agriculture can be a volatile sector at the mercy of forces well beyond anybody's control, and we appreciate your government moving quickly to help farmers recover from the extreme weather events in the winter and spring of 2022 that caused extensive damage to Ontario's vineyards and bee colonies.

That damage has had a lasting impact into this year's growing season. The Agri-recovery initiative is a welcome measure to help producers recover from the extraordinary costs incurred to clear and replant the vineyards and replace the bee colonies that were decimated last year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Ontario agriculture. We look forward to continuing to work with your Ministry on behalf of all farm families in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld  
President

cc: Honourable Lisa Thompson, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Matthias Oppenlaender, Chair, Grape Growers of Ontario  
OFA Board of Directors