

**OFA Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes
November 21st and 22nd, 2022
RBC Place London**

1. Call to Order

President Peggy Brekveld called the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order.

2. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Premier Doug Ford addressed the delegates with a recorded greeting.

The Premier thanked OFA for its role in building a better and stronger Ontario.

3. OFA President, Peggy Brekveld

President Peggy Brekveld welcomed the delegates back to an in-person AGM for the first time in three years.

She gave the delegates an update on the activities of OFA which included lobbying for improved broadband, continuous streams of lobbying submissions to the government and the ongoing work on the fertilizer reduction strategy.

President Brekveld introduced the Board of Directors and welcomed Bill Groenheide as OFA's newest director representing Zone 15.

The delegates were thanked for all that they do for Ontario agriculture and President Brekveld stated that she is also proud of OFA for what it does and looks forward to having another successful year.

**4. Opening Speakers - Peter Devlan, President & Alison Ewart, Dean
Centre for Research and Innovation, Fanshawe College**

Peter Devlan, President & Alison Ewart, Dean of Centre for Research and Innovation, Fanshawe College were the opening speakers for the 2022 AGM. Together they made a presentation on Fanshawe College's Centre for Research and Innovation.

5. Agenda Approval

Motion: Stone/Rodgers ... *“THAT the OFA Annual Meeting commence.”*

CARRIED

Motion: Rodgers/Cochrane ... *“THAT the Agenda be approved and late resolutions dealt with, time permitting at the end of business with 2/3 majority.”*

CARRIED

6. Approval of 2021 Minutes

Motion: *Bonnett/Freeman ... "THAT the 2021 AGM Minutes be approved."*

CARRIED

7. Receive Auditors Report and Financial Statements, August 31, 2022

Motion: *Renaud/Wales ... "THAT the Auditor's Report and OFA Financial Statements for the period of September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022, be accepted."*

CARRIED

8. Appointment of Auditors 2022-2023

Motion: *Gilroy/Davis ... "THAT the OFA Annual General Meeting Delegates accepts the OFA Board of Directors recommendation to have BDO Canada LLP as OFA's Auditor for the 2022/23 fiscal year."*

CARRIED

9. Resolutions

Leeds

Membership Residency

Motion: *Renaud/Passey ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's By-Law subsection 5.1 (Membership Eligibility) be amended to add "Members, if they so choose, have the right at any time to designate their Region as long as they farm or carry-on business in that Region, or the closest Region thereto. A Member's chosen designated Region shall be considered the Region in which they reside for all OFA membership rights, privileges and obligations", and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution passing would be binding on the OFA board."

LOST

Leeds

AGM Resolution Accountability

Motion: *Renaud/Passey ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's By-Law section 9 (Annual General Meetings) be amended to add "Notwithstanding the Board's resolution policy, a resolution approved by voting Members at an Annual General meeting shall be binding on the Board, unless the Board determines the resolution exposes the corporation to undue financial burden, reputational damage, and/or legal liability", and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board revise their resolution policy to include the obligation for the Board to advise OFA convention delegates of any approved Annual General meeting resolution that the Board has chosen not to adopt along with the rationale for the Board's decision, within two months after the Annual General meeting at which the resolution was approved by delegates."

LOST

**Algoma Federation Resolution
Wild Turkey Hunting**

Motion: *McKinnon/Regele ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to ensure that wild turkey sightings are adequately measured and that existing hunting metrics (limits) be reviewed, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA lobby the appropriate government agencies to further open fall hunting seasons for wild turkey in wildlife management units that currently only have a spring hunt and increase the tag limits for wild turkey hunting."

CARRIED

**Algoma
Health Care Workers**

Motion: *Lunn/Bonnett ... "THAT Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with other provincial health care stakeholders to lobby the Ontario government to act more quickly and decisively in filling staffing gaps within the provincial health care system, and support legislation, tools, and activities to improve access to health care."*

Amended Resolution

CARRIED

**Algoma/Cochrane/Manitoulin/North-Shore/Temiskaming/West Nipissing/Sudbury East
Spot Loss Compensation Resolution**

Motion: *Regele/Marchant ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association and other stakeholders to fully quantify crop losses and investigate the viability and potential for a spot loss compensation program for wildlife damage to crops, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA strongly advocate and pressure the provincial government for a spot loss compensation program for wildlife damage to crops."

CARRIED

**Arnprior
Hybrid Meeting Model**

Motion: *Cousens/Stone ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture as of March 1, 2023 offers a hybrid meeting model for all of its key meetings. AGM, PAC and other committee meetings. Included in this change would be the ability to Vote if the meeting presented such opportunity, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT over the next 3 months, the OFA will review its physical facilities and make any appropriate technology changes to support the effective delivery of meetings in a hybrid model."

CARRIED

Cochrane
Release of Crown Land

Motion: *Helin/Regele ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture advocate for and work with the government and other stakeholders to develop agricultural policies and processes for the timely release of crown land for agricultural purposes in Northern Ontario, in a sustainable manner that is accessible to individual farmers."*

CARRIED

Elgin
Inclusion of Farm Employees in the Farmer Wellness Initiative Program Services

Motion: *Fentie/Vanderbroek ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario government to extend the eligibility to include farm employees in the Farmer Wellness Initiative Program."*

CARRIED

Elgin
Implement an Agricultural System Approach and Conduct Agricultural Impact Assessments for All Non-Agricultural Land Use Acquisitions in Ontario

Motion: *Lunn/Wales ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the provincial government to ensure that an Agricultural System Approach be implemented, and Agricultural Impact Assessments be conducted for all agricultural land acquisitions for the purpose of conversion to non-agricultural land use in Ontario."*

CARRIED

Elgin
Recognizing the Historical Provision of Environmental Goods and Services by Ontario Farmers

Motion: *Wales/Lunn ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with CFA to ensure that the newly announced \$250 million Environmental Goods and Services Program, beginning with Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) in April 2023, provide payments to producers who already adopted many of these Best Management Practices and include producers who already adopted these best practices prior to the implementation date."*

CARRIED

Elgin
PR campaign on the benefits of Fertilizer use

Motion: *Fentie/Martin ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture consult with Grain Farmers of Ontario and other commodity associations to develop a new campaign extolling the need and benefits of fertilizers aimed at elected representatives, the media, and the general public."*

CARRIED

Glengarry

Elimination of LCBO Markup and Wine Levy on the Direct Delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee

Motion: *MacMillan/Lang ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture ("OFA") lobby the Ministry of Finance and LCBO to eliminate the LCBO Mark-up and Wine Levy imposed on the direct delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee; and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA request that the Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Minister of Red Tape Reduction, and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport support the elimination of the LCBO Mark-up and Wine Levy imposed on the direct delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee."

CARRIED

**Grenville
Increase Canadian Fertilizer Production**

Motion: *Wynands/Pemberton ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture recommend to both the Ontario government and the Federal government that they enable the return of fertilizer production at the Industrial Park located in Augusta Township, Ontario and at other Ontario locations."*

CARRIED

**Grey
Tree Planting on Prime Farmland**

Motion: *Booker/McQueen ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture develop a position to discourage tree planting on all farmland for amenity purposes, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA develop resources to support municipalities' design of municipal tree by-laws which protect agricultural land and enable long-term farming activities."

LOST

**Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton
OFA Annual General Meeting**

Motion: *Buckley/Baxter ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors move their AGM to the winter months with enough lead time to allow county federations to also hold their AGMs in the winter. A suggestion of February is made."*

LOST

**Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton
Surcharge on New Residences**

"THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario government to enable a municipality to levy an additional \$1,000 charge on each new residence built to go towards funding the cost of new and/or upgrades to drainage systems and municipal road

infrastructure needed to serve areas of less productive lands being brought into food production to replace existing productive farmland lost to urban development.

WITHDRAWN

**Lambton
Spray Drift**

Motion: *Martin/Eves ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario Government to enhance education on the effects of spray drift on different crops and how to avoid drift as part of the Ontario Pesticide Education Program, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario Government to create an easier conduit to report and record issues of spray drift, and that such tracking lead to identification of, and consequences for, applicators causing chronic spray drift, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to lobby the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada for consistency of information across approved labels and technical or promotional materials prepared by pesticide manufacturers and registrants."

LOST

**Leeds
New Farmer Recruitment**

Motion: *Passey/Renaud ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will conduct dedicated, academically supported, analysis on how to attract a new generation of farmers and to look at what incentives and ensuring policy changes are required to allow for the industry to be open for opportunity for those 30 and under. This could include incentives to existing or retiring farmers to transition their land and agribusiness to first generation farmers when there is no viable family succession plan."*

LOST

**Middlesex
Federal Electoral Boundaries**

Motion: *Myer/O'Neil ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture support the position that Municipalities should not be split between more than one electoral district unless the population of the municipality itself exceeds the target threshold for riding population, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA support the position that Counties should be fragmented into as few electoral districts as is possible."

CARRIED

**Middlesex
Fertilizer Tariff Issue**

Motion: *Verkley/Lee ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board communicate to OFA Membership why they deserve membership's trust in their current strategy."*

CARRIED

**Niagara
European Foul Brood**

Motion: *Mullet Koop/McAdams ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Ontario Beekeepers Association (OBA) to develop best management practices for beekeepers in the hope of decreasing the effects of European Foul Brood (EFB), and*

FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the OFA work with the OBA in promoting Ontario resistance Honeybees (ORHBS) bred, specifically for resistance to brood disease such as European Foul Brood (EFB)."

CARRIED

**Niagara
OMAFRA Boardrooms and Halls**

Motion: *Cosby/Mullet Koop ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Infrastructure Ontario to develop a policy allowing agriculture stakeholders, organization and commodity groups the use of board rooms and halls in OMAFRA offices and buildings."*

CARRIED

**Ottawa
Aid for Navan-Sarsfield Farmers**

Motion: *Otto/Banning ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the proper levels of Gov't MMAH, OMAFRA, the Premiers office and any other necessary agency that could help get financial assistance for everyone affected by this storm for losses not covered by insurance, and*

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT OFA work with the same Government Departments to develop a clear and concise set of rules for disaster assistance for future events to alleviate the stress and unpredictability and what appears to be discriminatory rules or political interference when one area qualifies for assistance and others don't which were affected by the same event!"

CARRIED

**Perth
Agricorp's Customer Service**

Motion: *Danen/Denham ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture request the Province to review Agricorp's customer service and ability to service Ontario Farmers effectively and promptly."*

CARRIED

**Perth
Board Level Leadership Training**

Motion: *Halliday/McIntosh ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture prepare a*

board level leadership training and development policy to ensure continued success into the future.”

CARRIED

**Perth
Cellular Reception**

Motion: *Van De Walle/Devries ... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby appropriate organizations to determine causes of unreliable cellular reception in rural Ontario and seek potential solutions to improve cellular connectivity in rural areas, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA submit a complaint to Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission on current cellular connectivity issues.”

CARRIED

**Wellington
PMRA**

Motion: *Nap/Dineen ... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby PMRA, Agriculture Canada, and the federal Minister of Agriculture to expedite the approval of drone application of pesticides by harmonizing labelling procedures respecting drone applications where the pesticide involved is already approved for ground and aircraft application in Canada and where drone application is permitted by EPA in the US.”*

CARRIED

10. John Vanthof, MPP

John Vanthof, NDP Critic Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs addressed the delegates.

MPP Vanthof thanked the OFA for the invitation to speak. He stated that OFA is always the first out of the gate to say how important agriculture is to Ontario and that agriculture is the building block.

MPP Vanthof concluded his comments by commending the OFA on its Home Grown farmland preservation campaign.

11. Geri Kamenz – The Co-operators

Geri Kamenz, Director with the Co-operators gave an update to the delegates on the past year at The Co-operators, noting The Co-operators appreciate the strong partnership with the OFA and the invitation to this year’s AGM.

12. Scotiabank Fireside Chat with Jean-Francois Perrault, Chief Economist & Janice Holzschere, VP National Head of Agriculture

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of Scotiabank spoke to the current economic climate which included inflation and the impact to the consumer and the tight labour market and its high level of vacancies as well as the costs.

13. Mary Robinson, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Mary Robinson, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) gave an update on CFA's activities in 2022.

Ms. Robinson noted that this will be her last year CFA's President and that it has been an honour to serve Canadian farm families.

14. Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Hon. Lisa Thompson addressed the crowd, highlighting recent government investments into the sector and efforts currently underway to update various pieces of legislation impacting agriculture, including modernization of the Veterinarians Act, and consultations around the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario.

15. Daniel Levitan, Hydro One Networks

Daniel Levitan, Vice President of Stakeholder Relations addressed the delegates.

He appreciates the working relationship with Ontario farmers.

Hydro One energizes life for people and communities, helping Ontarians live a better and brighter future and remains committed to supplying clean and reliable electricity across the province.

16. Bursary winners

This year's five bursary recipients were post-graduate winner Valerie Higginson, apprenticeship winner Andrew Kuiack, and undergraduate winners Faith Emiry, Michael Jones and Lexi Johnston. Bursaries combined were \$10,000 raised by membership contribution to silent auctions.

17. Josh Morgan, Mayor of London

Mayor Josh Morgan brought greetings to the delegates.

He stated that he was pleased that OFA is hosting this AGM in London as it is the centre of agrifood processing and innovation.

18. Year in Review Video

A Year In Review video was presented which captured OFA's accomplishments in 2022.

19. Keynote Speaker, Jeff Adams, Paralympian & World Champion

Keynote speaker Jeff Adams, Paralympian and six-time world champion wheelchair racer, drew on his own life experiences to share themes also common in the farming community: resilience, perseverance and striving for excellence. He encouraged farmers to look around themselves for support from family, friends and community when they need it, and to offer that support to others.

20. President's Closing Remarks

President Peggy Brekveld thanked the sponsors of the AGM for their support and looks forward to the 2023 AGM.

21. Adjournment