

March 25, 2024

The Honourable Marc Miller
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Ave W
Ottawa, ON K1P 6A6

Dear Minister Miller,

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Ontario's largest farm organization, to thank you for the approach you have taken in your recent announcement regarding Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs). We noted in your announcement that there will be no change in the allowed percentages of the workforce for the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP).

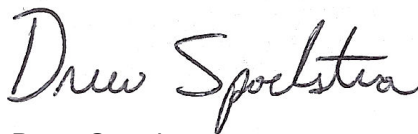
On behalf of the OFA, I would like to express my gratitude for this decision and applaud your thoughtful approach in recognizing the critical importance of the agricultural sector to Canada's economy and food security. This decision is fundamental to supporting the vitality of our agri-food sector and demonstrates a deep understanding of the needs of the agricultural community.

The offshore labour structure facilitated through the SAWP and AG Stream program is indispensable to Ontario's agri-food sector. The program allows us to meet the seasonal demands of food production and plays a pivotal role in maintaining the resilience of our food supply chain. TFWs bring essential skills and contribute significantly to our communities, ensuring that Canadians have reliable access to fresh, locally grown food. For our producers, the SAWP and the workers that the program brings in are fundamental to their operations. Our farmers often employ the same people year after year, and the reliability of the program provides certainty to both the producers and the workers who participate in the program.

Minister, thank you again for your thoughtful approach on this file. We know that Canada's labour needs are tightening, and we appreciate the work you are doing to support those needs while remaining conscious of the impact of temporary foreign worker programs on crucial sectors.

If your schedule would allow it, I would be more than happy to host you and your team at my farm in Binbrook and if possible allow for additional time to visit an area greenhouse operation to help to further illustrate how our farm operations work and the critical role the SAWP program plays in our success. We are pleased to be a resource to you, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support Ontario and Canada's agricultural community.

Sincerely,



Drew Spoelstra
President

cc: Keith Currie, Canadian Federation of Agriculture