

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Agribusiness

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de l'Agriculture,
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Drew Spoelstra
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
drew.spoelstra@ofa.on.ca

Dear Mr. Spoelstra:

I am pleased to share that the governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$538,000 through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) to expand the Farmer Wellness Initiative to Ontario farm workers.

The [Farmer Wellness Initiative](#) is a free, 24/7 phone line available to members of the agricultural community that provides them with access to tailored mental health counselling. The Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division delivers the initiative.

Earlier this year the line expanded to include farm workers, and now the expansion includes the delivery of mental health services in Spanish to better serve International Agricultural Workers. Services include 24/7 crisis counselling, risk assessments, matching to appropriate services, unlimited face-to-face, phone or video sessions, work-life counselling on elder care and childcare, as well as community referrals.

These actions build on a series of recently launched or expanded free mental health supports for workers in the farming sector. It also supports the priorities of the government's [Grow Ontario Strategy](#) and the [Roadmap to Wellness](#) plan.

Our government recognizes the invaluable role Ontario's farmers, farm workers and their families have in our province, and we are committed to supporting them in any way we can.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, as partners and stakeholders, to help meet the needs of Ontario's agri-food sector.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Flack
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

Did you know about the Farmers' Wellness Initiative?

- Your mental health is important! If you're a farmer or a member of a farm family and in need of mental health support, please call 1-866-267-6255 and arrange to speak with a professional today.
- For additional resources visit: <https://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca/>.