

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Agribusiness

Office of the Minister

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3
Tel: 416-326-3074

Ministère de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et de l'Agroentreprise

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Grenville, 11^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1B3
Tél. : 416 326-3074



July 9, 2024

Cathy Lennon
General Manager
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
cathy.lennon@ofa.on.ca

Dear Ms. Lennon:

Our government recognizes that the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario has been a key driver of some of the most important research projects leading to agri-food innovations in Ontario. That is why I am very pleased to share the good news with you that Bill 155, *Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario Amendment Act, 2024*, has received Royal Assent.

We have seen incredible innovations over the years, and the modernized [Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario Amendment Act](#) (the ARIO Act) will ensure our sector continues to have the proper supports and is ready to capitalize on new opportunities.

Created in 1962, the ARIO Act provides the framework for the powers, responsibilities, legal authority, and the duties of the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario. The amendments to this Act - including renaming the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario the Agricultural Research and Innovation Ontario - will further Ontario's commitment to excellence in agriculture, food processing and the development of agricultural and food technology.

In particular, the amendments will facilitate the pursuit and commercialization of high-impact research and innovation, the management of properties for agriculture and food research, the cultivation of strategic relationships and the support of the growth of the agriculture and food sectors. Emerging crop and livestock sectors and new technologies stand to benefit from such areas of research.

.../2

Thank you for your support to modernize the ARIO Act. The support and input of the agri-food industry has been a key driver of the proposed changes to the ARIO Act. We are committed to continue this engagement with academic and research experts, producers, processors, industry, and other organizations to ensure that the work of ARIO continues to meet the needs of the sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Flack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert J. Flack
Ontario 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/>.