

March 17, 2025

The Honourable Kody Blois  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Rural Economic Development  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Blois,

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Rural Economic Development on Friday. Your commitment to the Canadian agriculture sector and rural communities has long been evident throughout your tenure in Ottawa, and we are confident that your leadership in this role will greatly benefit Canadian farmers and agri-food stakeholders.

OFA has greatly valued our working relationship over the years, particularly in your role as Chair of the Agriculture & Agri-Food Standing Committee and most recently as Parliamentary Secretary to Minister MacAulay. Your position as an MP from a strong rural and agricultural riding in Nova Scotia provides you with a firsthand knowledge and understanding of many of the challenges and opportunities facing our industry. This experience will be instrumental in shaping strategies and policies that support and grow a profitable and sustainable agricultural sector.

We appreciate your recent support on key issues such as federal rail safety standards and the confirmation that the interest-free portion of the Advanced Agricultural Payment program will remain at \$250,000 for 2025. Additionally, we commend the swift action taken by the new Liberal government last week in immediately terminating the carbon tax—all of which are high priorities for our members and for colleagues across Canada.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you and your team on key issues impacting Ontario's farmers. In 2025, we face a range of critical challenges, including global trade uncertainties and instability with both the U.S. and China, as well as market volatility that adds financial stress to the entire food supply chain from farm to fork. Addressing these challenges will require strong collaboration between government and industry to ensure the long-term resilience of the sector, and OFA is prepared to be a committed partner in those discussions. Together, we can work towards ensuring the prosperity and resilience of Canadian agriculture, enhancing rural infrastructure, and strengthening the farm and food sector across the country.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved appointment. We look forward to engaging with you in the coming weeks and working together to build a thriving agricultural sector for all Canadians.

Best regards,

*Drew Spoelstra*

Drew Spoelstra  
President  
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cc: Keith Currie, President Canadian Federation of Agriculture  
OFA Board of Directors