



Patrick Verkley for PAC Steering Committee

Hi. I'm Patrick Verkley. My Wife Meghan and I run a broiler chicken and grain farming operation just outside of Strathroy in Middlesex County. In addition to the farm, I've been an active director on the Middlesex Federation of Agriculture (MFA) since 2018, and have been serving as President since January 2024. I've also been a part of PAC since 2019, serving 3 years on the PAC Steering Committee in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

While on the steering committee I pushed strongly to make time for the one thing we can only do when we are together; **learning from one another through open conversation.**

I believe that we are all better farmers, better local leaders, and better representatives for Agriculture

when we broaden our world view out beyond our own fence lines. And I've seen just how much we can accomplish when we work collaboratively together. The MFA has worked collaboratively with our neighbouring counties to organize leadership training days, we partnered with the Middlesex Junior Farmers to get our crop info signs put up, and we again teamed up with our neighbours to secure and staff a booth at the London Farm Show so we could all work at strengthening our relationships with grass roots Members.

So what does that have to do with PAC? Well, the seed of all these collaborative initiatives were sewn at PAC. And I think we've only just tapped at the surface of this opportunity. I want to see a PAC that not only helps inform the provincial board of what needs to be lobbied for, but which also helps all local federations tap into our pooled talents, as we work for the benefit of all Farmers at the local level.