

February 25, 2010

The Honourable Carol Mitchell  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
77 Grenville Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Mitchell:

Thank you for meeting with us today. As you know we share a common intent to secure a future for today's farmers in Ontario. The recent commitment of Agriculture Ministers to consult and examine Risk Management Program changes was quite frankly, discouraging. As a result we are very concerned that the McGuinty government and the federal government do not have a strong enough sense of urgency about Ontario agriculture. We are living the crisis every day on our farms and our farmers need more than another intention to examine the issue through consultation. We believe you understand that and are prepared to proceed.

Consequently, we are asking for the unequivocal support of the Ontario Government for the three elements of our request to you dated January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

- The Business Risk Management Program we have developed;
- Retroactive Implementation of BRMP for 2009; and
- Retroactive Implementation of AgriStability reforms for 2008 and 2009.

Ontario farmers need a real and assured commitment from your government that it is behind us fully and will provide the provincial investment needed to stabilize and sustain our businesses. This commitment cannot hinge on federal support being given first.

We understand the necessity of securing a federal commitment, but without a strong announcement from your government over the next few weeks, we will continue to be caught between the rhetoric of both governments. Ontario farmers deserve better than this and are depending on you and your government to stand up for Ontario agriculture at this critical time.

We are prepared to work with you to ensure sustainable farming is a provincial priority and to secure the federal commitment for our farm families. We wish to reconvene with you in mid March to establish the parameters of the above needed investments.

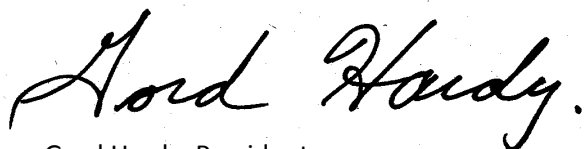
Sincerely,



Bette Jean Crews, President  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture



Henry Stevens, President  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario



Gord Hardy, President  
Ontario Cattlemen's Association



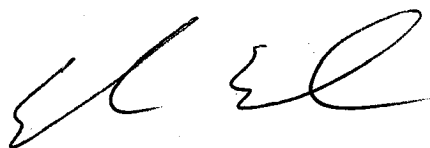
Brian Gilroy, Chair  
Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association



Leo Guilbeault, Chair  
Ontario Grains & Oilseeds



Wilma Jeffray, Chair  
Ontario Pork



Markus Wand, Chair  
Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency



Judy Dirksen, President  
Ontario Veal