

Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition (OASC)



Ontario Federation of Agriculture



Long-Term Thinking
for Today's Issues



ONTARIO PORK



Ontario Grains
& Oilseeds

December 23, 2010

Hon. Carol Mitchell
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto ON
M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Mitchell:

We wanted to thank you again for taking the time to meet with us during this busy time of year.

The Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition appreciates the work you have done promoting the Business Risk Management Program (BRMP) proposals from our member organizations among your caucus and cabinet colleagues. We believe your colleagues are beginning to understand the urgent need for the program.

We were also very pleased to learn that members of the Liberal caucus have also been promoting the funding of the BRMP with you. It is gratifying to hear that they know that more than 164,000 jobs are supported by the farming sector and this is the number one priority of Ontario's local farmers.

For more than a year, we have been working with you and your ministry staff on developing these programs and have engaged in unprecedented consultation with our members. Our memberships are supportive and will continue to be actively engaged as we support your efforts to secure funding for a permanent, multi-commodity BRMP. These efforts will include lobbying your provincial colleagues as well as the federal government in an effort to secure a true three-way partnership.

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In the new year, we will continue to be available to meet with you as you prepare for the next Federal Provincial Territorial meeting, and to further discuss the best way to launch the BRMP to address immediate need in conjunction with the 2011 Ontario budget.

Best wishes,



Bette Jean Crews, President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture



Henry Stevens, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario



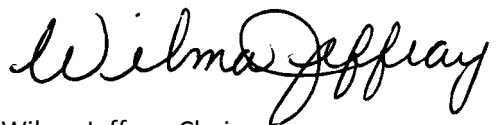
Curtis Royal, President
Ontario Cattlemen's' Association



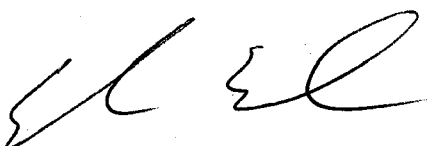
Brian Gilroy, Chair
Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association



Leo Guilbeault, Chair
Ontario Grains & Oilseeds



Wilma Jeffray, Chair
Ontario Pork



Markus Wand, Chair
Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency



Judy Dirksen, President
Ontario Veal