

Board Highlights: December 8, 2023

Ontario Pork's Reception at Queen's Park

On November 20, 2023, Ontario Pork hosted its MPP Reception at Queens Park in Toronto, Ontario. This year's reception was attended by over 150 guests, including seven ministers, 35 MPPs, their staff members, Fiona Batte, Conestoga Meat, Ontario Pork Board members and the Ontario Pork Leadership Training Graduates: Cassandra Van Engelen, Erin Kollman and Karen de Bruyn.

John de Bruyn, Chair of Ontario Pork spoke about the importance of the pork industry for the provincial economy and focused on four key government relations areas: processing capacity, emergency preparedness, labour and risk management. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon Lisa Thompson, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane and ag critic for the NDP party, and Stephanie Bowman, MPP for Don Valley West also delivered remarks.

Resolutions Committee

In preparation for the resolutions session at the Ontario Pork AGM, the Board approved the resolutions process document, based on the recommendation from the Resolutions Committee, which outlines resolutions submission steps, procedures and timelines. The resolutions process document will be presented to presidents and secretaries of local pork producers' associations at the meeting on December 13, 2023. The deadline for submission of resolutions has been extended to February 28, 2024 to provide producers with additional time to develop resolutions.

2024 Zone Meetings

The Board of Directors discussed the planning process for zone meetings. Elections for delegate and Board member positions will be conducted in January-February 2024 in all five zones. Additionally, three at-large Board positions, representing pork producers within the province, will be subject to election at the Ontario Pork annual general meeting on March 19-20, 2024. Ontario Pork will be holding a meeting for presidents and secretaries of local pork producers' associations to discuss the election process in more detail. More information will be circulated to pork producers ahead of the 2024 election cycle.

Pork Promotion and Research Agency

Bruce Hudson, Ontario Pork's Board member, was nominated to represent Ontario's pork producers on the Pork Promotion and Research Agency (PPRA). The PPRA has authority to promote the production and marketing of hogs and pork products for the purposes of interprovincial, export and import trade and to conduct promotion and research activities related to those farm products. The PPRA supports the competitiveness and sustainability of the pork sector by enabling the development and implementation of promotional and research activities.