

## **Board Highlights: March 2-3, 2021**

### ***Annual General Meeting Update***

Ontario Pork will be hosting its virtual Annual General Meeting on March 24, 2021. Staff briefed the Board of Directors on preparations for the upcoming Ontario Pork AGM, including, the agenda, the virtual meeting format for voting delegates and non-voting participants, as well as registrations progress to date. The Ontario Pork corporate profile has been printed and sent to the delegates. An electronic version of the [2020 corporate profile](#) was also published on the Ontario Pork website.

### ***Associations Annual Meetings Review***

The Board of Directors discussed outcomes and the producer feedback from local pork producers' associations meetings held virtually in January-February 2021. Zone 3 and 4 held elections for delegates to Ontario Pork. Arno Schober (Simcoe/York) and Chris Cossitt (Grey/Bruce) were acclaimed as Board members representing zone 3. Bruce Hudson (Ottawa Valley) was acclaimed as a new Board member for zone 4.

### ***Durham, Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough Amalgamation***

The Durham Pork Producers' Association, the Kawartha Lakes Pork Producers' Association and the Peterborough Pork Producers' Association have expressed a desire to amalgamate, choosing "Central Ontario Pork Producers' Association" as their new name. These three associations are within hog producing zone 4 and thereby, meet the requirements of Regulation 403/10 for amalgamation. The Board of Directors approved a revised constitution for the Central Ontario Pork Producers' Association.

### ***Pork Promotion and Research Agency***

Maaik Campbell, Ontario Pork's Board member and a pork producer from Lambton, was nominated to serve as a member representing Ontario on the Canadian Pork Promotion and Research Agency (PPRA). The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food announced the creation of the Canadian PPRA in November 2020. Canadian Pork Council believes that the PPRA, which receives funds through the collection of a levy on the imports of live pigs and pork meat, is a mechanism that can further strengthen the industry. The first election of members of the PPRA will be held virtually in March 2021.

### ***Research Committee Update***

The Board of Directors approved funding recommendations for six research projects that the Research committee had reviewed and recommended for funding at the committee meeting on February 2, 2021:

- Improvement of feed efficiency in Canadian swine industry through genomics and machine learning
- Optimizing an infection model for E. coli diarrhea in newly weaned pigs
- Development of an in vitro / in vivo correlation method to assess the efficiency of oral drug release from oral medications in swine. Phase 2: Water medication
- Development of an in vitro / in vivo correlation method to assess the efficiency of oral drug release from oral medications in swine. Phase 1b: Restoring drug release
- Development of boar taint detection kits using DNA aptamers for use in commercial packing plants. Phase I: Lab validation
- Big data and Graphic Processing Unit (GPU) accelerated data science for high-throughput carcass and pork quality phenotyping