



## Board Highlights: September 19-20, 2017

### *Policy Day Review*

Staff provided a brief summary of results from the Ontario Pork Policy Day held on September 12, 2017 at the Holiday Inn – Guelph for delegates, presidents and secretaries from each of the local pork producers' associations. Over 60 participants provided their input into three key areas:

- Swine Research Infrastructure in Ontario
  - Delegates expressed strong support to partner with government to continue evaluating a new swine research facility connected to the University of Guelph. Participants identified some aspects that should be considered during the development phase.
- Navigating the National Pork Industry Landscape
  - Pork producers indicated that they see value in the core activities of the CPC, including trade, market access, food and nutrition marketing and advocacy. Delegates provided suggestions on how to enhance two-way communication.
- Canadian Pork Excellence Program Overview and Update
  - Based on the delegates' request for complete information regarding the CPE program and its estimated impact, the Board of Directors considered next steps in acquiring and providing this information to producers, as well as further consultations with Ontario Pork's membership.

### *Alliances and Partnerships Representation*

The Board of Directors made the following appointments for the next term:

- Canadian Pork Council (CPC) – Doug Ahrens and Oliver Haan
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture Policy Advisory Council (OFA PAC) – Chris Cossitt
- Ontario Pork Grading Authority (OPGA) – John de Bruyn
- Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) – Eric Hartemink

### *Graduate Scholarship in Swine Nutrition in Memory of Kees de Lange*

In response to the University of Guelph request, the Board of Directors decided to provide a one-time \$50,000 funding for the Graduate Scholarship in Swine Nutrition in Memory of Professor Cornelius (Kees) de Lange. By providing this funding, Ontario Pork would like to honour Kees de Lange for his outstanding contribution to the pork industry and to support graduate education in swine nutrition in Ontario.

### *Research Update*

Ontario Pork recently announced a call for Letters of Intent for swine research projects that focus on the Ontario swine industry. Greater priority and consideration will be given to research proposals and projects that address issues and questions that will specifically provide benefits or improve the competitiveness of Ontario pork producers.

### *Policy Update: Labour Issues and Taxation*

The Ontario Government's decision to rapidly increase the minimum wage, will make Ontario's pork industry less competitive than its major competitors in North America and elsewhere in Canada which do not face the same regulated cost increase. Staff briefed the Board of Directors on ongoing work with other agricultural organizations to identify and develop practical and fair government measures that should accompany the minimum wage increase in order to maintain Ontario's producers' cost competitiveness. Further government consultation on agricultural exemptions to the current employment rules is expected later this fall.

The federal government has proposed a number of changes to tax rules that affect private corporations. The changes are expected to impact pork producers, given that a significant share of pork farms are incorporated. The consultation period on the proposed changes closes October 2, 2017. Staff provided an



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update on the industry advocacy efforts on the federal level, by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Canadian Pork Council, as well as on the provincial level by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

### ***Production Insurance***

Ontario Pork's Risk Management Advisory Group has completed drafting a proposal for a production insurance product that would indemnify producers of weaner pigs in the event of disease-related loss in their weaner production. The Board of Directors made a decision to approve the proposal for submission to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for their consideration.