

## **Board Highlights: September 17-18, 2019**

### ***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) – Teresa Van Raay
- Ontario Pork Grading Authority (OPGA) – Arno Schober

### ***2019 Policy Day***

Staff provided a brief summary of results from the Ontario Pork Policy Day held on September 10, 2019 at the Holiday Inn – Guelph for delegates, presidents and secretaries from each of the local pork producers' associations. Over 50 participants focused on the Ontario Pork Political Structure Review, AgManifest and African Swine Fever preparedness. Blair Cressman, Waterloo, updated participants on work done so far by the Political Structure Review Committee and outlined questions identified by the committee for delegates' input. Participants provided food for thought on the delegate selection process, Board structure, and challenges and opportunities for local pork producers' associations. TJ Murray, a delegate from Oxford, provided a demonstration of how he uses the AgManifest software for his operation. During the African Swine Fever (ASF) panel discussion, Eric Schwindt, Board Chair outlined Ontario Pork's activities as part of the market interruption strategy development. Patti Negrave, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), spoke about some of the steps being taken at the national level to prevent the spread of ASF, including includes stronger import controls on illegal meat importation, the creation of secondary control zones for plant-based feed imports, development and adoption of biosecurity protocols, and a collaborative approach to management of wild pig populations. Tim Metzger, OMAFRA presented measures put in place and activities undertaken by the province.

### ***Risk Management Advisory Group Update***

The provincial government has made a commitment to add an additional \$50 million to the RMP on the condition that the current RMP is re-designed to act as an insurance based program. Ontario Pork's Risk Management Advisory Group met on August 30, 2019 to discuss the provincial Risk Management Program (RMP) re-design options that would work for pork producers. The group agreed that the main principle for all scoped out options is to ensure a timely payment to producers in the event of need.

### ***Activism Update***

Staff provided an update on Ontario Pork's activities to address recent anti-agriculture activism issues. Advocacy efforts will continue as agriculture groups work with government to find solutions. Consumer-facing and outreach activities continue to promote an accurate depiction of farm practices along parallel channels. Ontario Pork will continue to work with partners to monitor and prepare for potential activism at upcoming events, including Western Fair and the Royal.

### ***Canada Pork Council: 2019 Federal Election***

Gary Stordy of Canadian Pork Council (CPC) outlined the CPC activities in the weeks leading up to Canada's federal election on October 21, 2019. Pork producers have the opportunity to invite political parties to take a stronger stand in support of the pork industry. To assist in this process, CPC compiled briefing materials, including a list of five key priorities for the industry, along with speaking points for producers to use when engaging with local candidates. Ontario Pork will be mailing these materials to all pork producers in the province. As the voice of Ontario pork producers, Ontario Pork continues to be an active advocate on behalf of pork producers; but, our message is stronger when the entire industry speaks with one voice.