



## Board Highlights: December 9, 2016

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The following are highlights from the December 2016 Ontario Pork board meeting.

### Ontario Pork's Reception at Queen's Park

The Board of Directors and staff reviewed the Ontario Pork breakfast reception for MPPs government staff held on November 29, 2016 at Queen's Park in Toronto for MPPs and their staff. This year's event was well attended by policymakers and Ontario Pork's Board members, creating a great atmosphere for a dialogue on key topics that currently impact the pork sector. Craig Hulshof and Mike Stein, young pork producers who completed the Ontario Pork Leadership Training, also attended the event. Amy Cronin provided an update on Ontario Pork's social responsibility journey. Minister Leal congratulated Ontario Pork on the work it has been doing for the Ontario agriculture and agri-food sector. Toby Barrett, MPP for Haldimand-Norfolk and agriculture critic for the PC party and Percy Hatfield, MPP for Windsor-Tecumseh also delivered remarks.

### Resolutions Committee

In preparation for the resolutions session at the Ontario Pork AGM, the Resolutions committee reviewed and approved the Resolutions Process document which outlines resolutions submission steps, procedures and timelines. The Resolutions Process document will be circulated to Presidents and Secretaries of local pork producers' associations at the upcoming meeting on December 14, 2016.

### Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Keith Currie, President and Neil Currie, General Manager, Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) met with the Board of Directors to discuss opportunities for collaboration. They presented an overview of the organization as well as a wide array of initiatives in current areas of focus for OFA including: economics of farming, environment and sustainability, labour, food safety and health, biotechnology, and public perception.

## **National Research Chair in Swine Animal Welfare**

The Board of Directors confirmed the intent to support the Prairie Swine Centre (PSC) initiative for a National Research Chair in Swine Welfare at the University of Saskatchewan. Ontario Pork will provide an annual \$25,000 funding for next five years. Earlier this year, Dr. Yolande Seddon was selected to lead a national swine welfare research team.

## **Sustainability Advisory Group**

This year's release of the provincial government's Climate Change Action Plan laid out strategies and targets that are beginning to come into effect. The cap and trade system will come into practice on January 1, 2017. Arno Schober and John de Bruyn, co-chairs of the Sustainability Advisory Group, reported on the meeting held December 5, 2016. At the meeting, the advisory group members reviewed the feedback regarding climate change provided by delegates at the Policy Day held by Ontario Pork on September 20, 2016. During a brainstorming session, participants prioritized potential actions for Ontario Pork that would support and assist the Ontario pork sector in such areas as feed, manure management, and energy. They also shared ideas for possible carbon sink protocols for agriculture.

## **Risk Management Advisory Group**

The federal government is currently seeking industry input on this successor framework to Growing Forward 2. Ontario Pork's Risk Management Advisory Group has developed a set of recommendations for the business risk management programs in the framework. Eric Schwindt, Board Vice-Chair, attended in-person consultations in early November in Ottawa.

## **Program Development Advisory Group**

Oliver Haan, co-chair of the Program Development Advisory Group briefed the Board on the meeting held on November 24, 2016. The advisory group members provided their comments and revisions for the draft On-Farm Emergency Planning Guide, designed to help Ontario pork farmers plan for and manage emergencies that can potentially occur on their operation. Based on their feedback, the resource will be finalized and circulated to pork producers in February 2017.