



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition:  
Media Statement on Premier Doug Ford's Cabinet Appointments**

GUELPH, ONTARIO (July 4, 2018) — The Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) wishes to congratulate Premier Doug Ford on the formation of an experienced Cabinet for Ontario's 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament and Ernie Hardeman on his appointment as Ontario's new Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, with Randy Pettapiece as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister.

OASC is encouraged by the appointment of two seasoned and knowledgeable MPPs to lead the path forward to strengthen Ontario's agricultural sector. "Minister Hardeman has been a strong voice for rural Ontario in the Ontario Legislature and an avid supporter of the Ontario Risk Management Program (RMP)," said Eric Schwindt, OASC Chair. "We anticipate him bringing that strong voice to the Cabinet table."

The OASC leaders look forward to working closely with Minister Hardeman and his fellow Cabinet Ministers, and all members of the Legislature in support of Premier Ford's promise to increase the RMP cap by \$50 million annually to help farmers better manage risks outside their control.

**About OASC:**

The Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) was established in 2009 at the request of the Ontario Government to develop the Risk Management Program (RMP).

RMP is an insurance program designed by farmers, made for farmers, with a premium paid by farmers. The RMP program was designed to help farmers manage risks beyond their control and to help stabilize the industry as many prices are global in nature and far beyond farmers' control.

OASC is comprised of Ontario's leading non-supply managed livestock sector commodity groups: Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board and Veal Farmers of Ontario.

To learn more, visit OASC's website at [www.oasc.ca](http://www.oasc.ca).

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