October 6, 2026

Chris Riach
President
Beef Farmers of Cochrane District

Dear Chris,

Re: Crown Land Access 26-16

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS the ability to access to Crown land continues to be a limiting factor for producers; and
WHEREAS access to Crown land is one option to increase the beef herd in the province; and
WHEREAS BFO has made access to Crown land a lobby priority for the last few years;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to make access to Crown land for the production of beef in the province of Ontario a top priority in the lobby efforts.

We thank the Beef Farmers of Cochrane District for bringing this resolution forward. Access to Crown land for agricultural production remains an important priority for our sector, with the potential to support growth and create new opportunities for producers. BFO continues to advocate for increased access to Crown land for agricultural production and remains committed to advancing this issue as one of our top provincial priorities.

Bill 109, Protecting Ontario's Food Independence Act, 2026 is a broad agricultural omnibus bill introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. It proposes changes to nine provincial Acts and would create a new Farmland Security Act, 2026. This Bill has the potential to open up opportunities for producers in the Northern Clay Belt area.

In August 2026 the Standing Committee on the Interior held public hearings across Ontario regarding Bill 109. BFO directors and members appeared before the committee as delegates representing the beef sector in support of the Bill. They responded to questions from committee members and highlighted the importance of improving access to Crown land for agricultural production.

Recently the Ministry of Natural Resources updated the *Applicants' Guide to Crown Land Disposition for Agriculture in Northeastern Ontario*. The guide provides an overview of the policies, requirements, and procedures that apply when considering applications for Crown land dispositions to support agricultural development.

Additionally, BFO is planning to host an information session with staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide members in northern Ontario with an opportunity to learn more about accessing Crown land for agricultural purposes. The session will address questions about

the application process, eligibility requirements, associated costs, timelines, and other considerations for producers interested in pursuing Crown Land opportunities.

BFO remains committed to advancing opportunities for Crown land access as a means of supporting the growth and sustainability of Ontario's beef sector, particularly in northern Ontario. BFO will continue to advocate for practical, accessible, and transparent pathways for producers seeking Crown land for agricultural purposes and will support members by providing information and resources to help them navigate the application process.

Sincerely,



Jason Leblond
President

cc: Jason Desrochers (Advisory Councillor, Seconder)
Kyla Riach (Secretary)