



January 27, 2026

Kim Weedmark
President
Grenville Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kim,

Re: Provincial Abattoir Capacity and Wait Times 25-10

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

WHEREAS, access to provincial abattoirs has become increasingly more difficult with no movement on the vacant Joyceville Penitentiary facility.

WHEREAS, the devastating fire at Quinn's meats has only further exacerbated the processing backlog.

WHEREAS, government red tape and astronomical start-up costs prevent most interested parties from opening a new facility.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the Government for large scale funding assistance and training incentives to significantly increase operating capacities at small, medium and large-scale abattoirs as well as pursue new operating facilities where expansion is not feasible in order to address the current backlog.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to put pressure on the provincial and federal governments to fast track the reopening process for the abattoir located at Joyceville Penitentiary.

The BFO Board of Directors thanks the Grenville Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. Directors recognize the significant impact limited processing capacity has on beef producers' ability to market cattle in a timely and cost-effective manner. Improving access to meat processing capacity remains a top advocacy priority for BFO and was a key issue raised during meetings with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) at Queen's Park in May and again in November.

BFO has consistently raised concerns with elected officials that current cost-share funding models are often inaccessible to small businesses that provide essential services within the beef supply chain, due to limited cash flow and upfront capital requirements. From a producer perspective, BFO continues to recommend targeted government investments aligned with the provincial agri-food strategy, *Grow Ontario*, that would strengthen processing capacity and improve producer market access.

These include:

- Continued investment in expanding beef processing capacity;
- Broader eligibility windows for funding programs;
- Higher funding limits to support meaningful infrastructure and equipment upgrades;
- Adjustments to tax classifications impacting small and medium-sized facilities; and
- Increased emphasis on labour availability and skills training.

In collaboration with the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), BFO met with Members of Parliament and Senators in Ottawa this past October to highlight the urgent need to reopen the Joyceville Institution abattoir. BFO formally requested the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) proceed with a full Request for Proposals (RFP) following an Expressions of Interest process that demonstrated industry interest in operating the facility. As of November, CSC advised the initiative has been paused due to competing infrastructure priorities. BFO continues to work with MP Mark Gerretsen to advocate for restarting this process, emphasizing the ongoing shortage of beef processing capacity in Eastern Ontario and its direct impact on producers.

BFO will continue to advocate on behalf of beef producers for improved access to processing capacity and will keep members informed of any developments related to the Joyceville facility and government programs that may support expanded beef processing in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Don Scott (Advisory Councillor)
Paul Ferguson (Seconder)
Erin Theriault (Secretary)