



December 10, 2025

Darrell Russett
President
Beef Farmers of Hastings County

Dear Darrell,

Re: *Ontario Building Code 25-09*

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, the building codes have changed as of January 2025 that apply to agriculture buildings
AND WHEREAS, the codes require increased costs and unrealistic requirements,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work towards more reasonable building codes that are adapted to livestock and agricultural conditions.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Beef Farmers of Hastings County for bringing this resolution forward.

Given building codes affect the broader agricultural community, I have forwarded this resolution to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and asked that they take action to respond to the issue, and to report back on progress made. BFO is supportive of assisting OFA through advocacy efforts.

BFO will be sure to keep the local associations apprised of any developments and progress regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Jake Palmateer (Mover)
Paul Kinlin (Advisory Councillor and Secondar)
Al Govier & Marg Turnbull (Secretary)



December 10, 2025

Drew Spoelstra
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Dear Drew,

Re: *Ontario Building Code Resolution*

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, the building codes have changed as of January 2025 that apply to agriculture buildings

AND WHEREAS, the codes require increased costs and unrealistic requirements,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work towards more reasonable building codes that are adapted to livestock and agricultural conditions.

The updated building code requirements are far more extensive than initially anticipated. While many of the new standards may provide long-term benefits in terms of safety, they also impose significant upfront costs and practical challenges for livestock producers. For instance, the updated codes now mandate sprinklers in barns over a certain square footage, exhaust fans for each compartment of manure pits, emergency lighting to address power outages, and readily accessible generators. Each of these requirements adds complexity, installation costs and ongoing maintenance obligations that many farms may find difficult to implement.

Although the new measures could improve safety over the long term, they represent a substantial burden for farms, particularly smaller operations. There are concerns regarding the feasibility of uniform application of these standards and whether they fully account for the realities of agricultural operations.

Given that the building code affects the broader agricultural community, BFO respectfully requests the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) consider taking a leadership role in addressing this issue with regulators. BFO is committed to supporting OFA in any advocacy efforts and will collaborate in finding solutions that balance safety, practicality and cost-effectiveness for producers.

BFO looks forward to receiving updates on any discussions, analyses or actions undertaken by OFA regarding these new building code requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" and last name "McLaughlin" clearly legible.

Craig McLaughlin
President