



April 1, 2025

Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor)
19 Lisgar Street, Suite 307
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 3L4

To whom it may concern,

Re: Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance Letter of Support

BFO represents 19,000 beef farmers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of policy planning, industry development and research, environmental sustainability, animal health and welfare, and domestic and export market development.

We are pleased to provide this letter in support of the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) and its application for funding. NOFIA has played a crucial role in advancing agriculture in Northern Ontario, fostering innovation, and supporting sustainable agricultural development throughout the region.

Since its inception in 2014, NOFIA has successfully collaborated with industry, academia, and government partners to implement numerous projects that have had a significant impact on the agricultural sector in Northern Ontario. Their accomplishments include facilitating over \$15 million in NOHFC funding to farmers, improving more than 37,500 acres of agricultural land through the installation of tile drainage and land development. They have also supported essential research initiatives in areas such as single-use agricultural plastics disposal, implemented strategies to access local food, and initiatives to improve access to large animal veterinary service in Northern Ontario. A host of other initiatives have been instrumental in enhancing the sustainability, profitability, and overall competitiveness of agriculture in Northern Ontario.

Funding would allow NOFIA to continue its vital work, expand its mandate to include infrastructure development, increase access to new markets, and facilitate further value-added growth in the sector. Given NOFIA's proven track record of delivering impactful programs and fostering collaboration, we support their funding application and encourage FedNor to continue its support of this important organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin".

Craig McLaughlin
President