



April 16, 2026

Hon. Trevor Jones
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
11th Floor, 77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

Dear Minister Jones,

Re: *Ontario Risk Management Program (RMP)*

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of Ontario's Risk Management Program (RMP), including the recent commitment of additional provincial funding, your ministry's collaborative approach in developing a more manageable premium phase-in plan, and your ongoing engagement on key program improvements such as the operational cap. These actions reflect a strong commitment to ensuring Ontario farmers have access to effective and responsive risk management tools, and we greatly appreciate the partnership shown by you, your office, and ministry staff.

RMP plays a critical role in stabilizing our sector by providing protection against market volatility, rising input costs, and economic and trade uncertainty. For commodities like beef that are not protected under supply management, the program fills a vital gap and enables producers to manage risk, invest, and contribute to Ontario's food independence and economy.

We also sincerely appreciate the flexibility and collaboration demonstrated in working with BFO and our sector partners on the premium phase-in plan. Moving from a five-year to a seven-year phase-in, while reducing front-end loading and better balancing contributions over time, is a practical and responsive solution. It is far more manageable for our members. We are especially grateful for how quickly your team worked with the sector to reach this outcome.

While these advancements are very positive, it is critical that the RMP operational cap increase be addressed as soon as feasibly possible. The current cap has remained unchanged since the program's inception in 2011 and no longer reflects today's operating environment. With cattle prices having more than doubled and production costs rising significantly since that time, larger operations are already being penalized by reduced coverage due to this cap.

As contributions from both government and producers increase, failing to adjust the cap will further erode coverage for these operations. It is our position that the operational cap should be increased from its current \$1.2 million to at least a minimum of \$2.4 million, to ensure equitable access to risk protection across farm sizes and to maintain confidence in the program. Without this change, participant coverage levels from key segments of the sector, largely the feedlot sector, will be at risk.

Continued commitment to RMP, along with ensuring that program rules such as the operational cap reflect today's operating environment, aligns closely with the pillars and objectives of both the Grow Ontario and Protect Ontario strategies.

Minister, thank you again for your leadership and continued support of Ontario's beef sector. We appreciate your responsiveness and your willingness to work collaboratively with our sector.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JL', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason Leblond
President
Beef Farmers of Ontario

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association
BFO Feedlot Committee
Beef Cattle RMP Reference Committee