



May 13, 2025

The Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Dear Minister MacDonald,

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), I would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your appointment as Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Your leadership comes at a critical time for Canada's agriculture sector in the wake of increased market volatility, pending and ongoing trade negotiations with key partner markets, supply chain fragility, and uncertainty with our largest trading partner in the U.S. Your understanding of the importance of rural communities and primary production, as well as your commitment to supporting the people and industries that form the backbone of our food system provides encouragement that our sector will have support to tackle these challenges, and be put in the best position to take advantage of the strong demand for our products at home and around the world.

We are eager to continue advancing shared priorities, including enhancing risk management tools, improving access to export markets, defending Canadian agri-food interests amid tensions with the United States and through the upcoming renegotiation of the CUSMA, investing in research and innovation, and strengthening the resilience of our domestic supply chains.

Ontario's beef farmers are proud to contribute to Canada's food security, economy, and environmental stewardship. As an organization representing 19,000 beef farmers across the province, BFO looks forward to working collaboratively with you and your team to address key challenges and seize new opportunities for growth, innovation, and sustainability in our sector.

Minister, we look forward to meeting with you and your fellow members soon and engaging in constructive dialogue to ensure a strong and vibrant future for Ontario beef producers. We would be happy to organize a farm tour for you and your team in the Ottawa region when your schedule will allow.

Once again, congratulations on your new role.

Sincerely,

Craig McLaughlin
BFO President