

Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs

Office of the Minister

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3  
Tel: 416-326-3074  
www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de  
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Grenville, 11<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1B3  
Tél. : 416 326-3074  
www.ontario.ca/MAARO



March 28, 2024

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay  
Minister of Agri-Food and Agriculture Canada  
[aaaf.minister-ministre.aac@canada.ca](mailto:aaaf.minister-ministre.aac@canada.ca)

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
[Steven.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Steven.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister MacAulay and Minister Guilbeault,

Ontario is home to the country's largest agriculture and food industry, representing over 48,000 farms and 836,000 workers across the province. Fuel is a necessity for these farms' operations. With limited alternatives available, the federal carbon tax is making it more and more difficult for farmers to do the critical work they do to keep Canadian families fed.

That's why we're calling on the federal government to immediately pause the 23 per cent carbon tax hike set to take effect on April 1st.

The federal government should support additional carbon tax exemptions rather than imposing further increases. While we continue to ask for the removal of the entire tax, the federal government should pause the planned increase as a first step.

Due to the federal carbon tax increases, Ontario's ability to produce food for a growing population and meet export opportunities is consistently more challenging. Existing exemptions to the carbon tax for our farmers won't be enough to alleviate cost pressures resulting from the carbon tax. If the tax continues to rise, Ontario farmers will be forced to pay more for their inputs, increasing the cost of food at every step along the supply chain. Neither the agriculture and food industry nor Ontario families can afford this increase.

Ensuring the productivity and competitiveness of our farmers and Canada's agriculture and food industry must continue to be our shared priority as we work to provide Canadians with affordable food grown close to home.

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Once again, we urge you to listen to farmers, the broader agriculture industry, and families across Ontario and Canada and immediately pause the planned 23 per cent carbon tax increase.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Thompson  
Minister of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs

Craig McLaughlin  
Chair  
Beef Farmers of Ontario

Jim Millington  
CEO  
Canada Protein Ingredients  
Ltd.

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Ed Scharringa  
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Christian Farmers Federation  
of Ontario

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Chair  
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Kevin Schinkel  
President  
Meat and Poultry Ontario



Good things grow in Ontario  
À bonne terre, bons produits

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Renée-Claude Goulet  
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