



February 14, 2020

Town of Pelham
Delivered via email

Re: Bill 156, Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act

The Niagara Federation of Agriculture is an agricultural organization with over 1400 farm family members. Niagara offers the most diversified area of food production in all of Canada and agriculture has proven to be the economic mainstay in Niagara. The mandate of the Federation is to promote and protect agriculture in the Niagara Peninsula through lobby and communication efforts. The Niagara Federation of Agriculture is affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture who represents over 38,000 farm family members.

The Niagara Federation of Agriculture would like to ask for your support in the passing of Bill 156, *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act*. Our farms are places of business, growing and producing food, raising animals and making a living. It is also our home and the same place we raise our families and play with our children. Existing laws were not doing enough to protect our farms and families and our homes from the risk of invasion.

Ontario farms have increasingly come under threat of unwanted trespassers and activists who are illegally entering property, barns and building, seizing private property and threatening the health and safety of the farm, employees, livestock and crops. It has resulted in farmers, their families and employees becoming increasingly frightened and frustrated. These activities are causing serious threats to the mental health and wellbeing of Ontario farmers. In most cases, farmers and their families live on their farms, making this ongoing threat even greater, exposing families to perpetrators. It's a concern for their safety and the safety of their families and employees. There is also a biosecurity threat. Breaches in biosecurity puts the health and welfare of our animals and our food supply at risk. Unwanted visitors and guests have the potential to bring in diseases that could infect or kill an entire barn full of animals or contaminates water and food supply inside a food processing facility. This legislation helps Ontario's agri-food sector protect against those risks.

The Niagara Federation of Agriculture supports the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act which implements a provincially-funded animal welfare enforcement model, designed to protect animals from abuse and neglect, and creates uniformity across the province. The legislation introduces a new enforcement system for Ontario, headed by the Chief Animal

Welfare Inspector, and includes trained animal welfare inspectors employed by the province. As a publicly funded animal welfare enforcement model, this revamped system provides for increased accountability, transparency and oversight by the government. This is the enforcement model that has been developed to protect all animals.

The *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act* is good news for Ontario's agri-food industry. It provides a balance approach to protecting farms while recognizing a citizen's right to protect. This new legislation will ensure farm businesses have a legal standing to protect their farms, family and employees, livestock, crops and ultimately the entire food supply.

Thank you once again for your continued support of the agriculture industry. If you require any further information, please contact Nadine Gill-Aarts our Member Service Representative at 289-687-7477 or nadine.gill@ofa.on.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hamilton".

Chris Hamilton
President
Niagara Federation of Agriculture