



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

**Ontario AgriCentre**

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March 9, 2010

Mr. Joe Preston  
Southwestern Ontario Caucus  
142 Confederation  
Ottawa, Ontario

Mr. Rick Norlock  
Eastern Ontario Caucus  
747 Confederation  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Preston & Mr. Norlock:

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) to request an urgent meeting jointly or separately with the Ontario Conservative Caucus. We are the leaders of the majority of non-supply managed commodities in Ontario (organizations listed below).

As you know we have been fighting for provincial and federal government strategic investments in agriculture to stabilize and sustain our farm businesses and our industry. We have developed a plan for necessary revisions to the AgriStability program as well as developed a workable and affordable Business Risk Management Program (BRMP) that will sustain Ontario agriculture for the future.

Regrettably, although supported by Minister Mitchell, at the recent Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers' meeting, the Ministers called for yet more consultations. Our farm businesses have told us what is needed. It is now time to act!

With respect, we request a meeting of the Ontario Conservative Caucus, of which we believe you lead, to explain the dire situation in Ontario agriculture and the solutions we have developed to stabilize and sustain our industry.

As you know, investment in agriculture pays dividends. This is a crucial time for our farm businesses – one that requires public leadership to make food production a priority. We look forward to meeting with caucus in the near future to explain our solutions and positive outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bette Jean Crews". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bette Jean Crews,  
President

OASC Members: The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, Ontario Pork, Ontario Cattlemans' Association, The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, Ontario Veal, Ontario Grains & Oilseeds.