



2023
ANNUAL REPORT



TOWNSHIP
OF
ZORR

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The farmer knows just what to do, for God has given him understanding. A heavy sledge is never used to thresh black cumin; rather, it is beaten with a light stick. A threshing wheel is never rolled on cumin; instead, it is beaten lightly with a flail. Grain for bread is easily crushed, so he doesn't keep on pounding it. He threshes it under the wheels of a cart, but he doesn't pulverize it. The LORD of Heaven's Armies is a wonderful teacher, and he gives the farmer great wisdom.

Isaiah 28: 26-29

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I was meditating on what to write for this report, I came across a devotional by Dr. Ryan Cook, that related to farming. "Farming was one of the most common occupations in the ancient world. It is not a surprise that one of the first images of God in the Bible is that of a farmer. God speaks and the world comes into existence. Then the tone shifts in Genesis 2 and God gets his hands dirty in the soil. He 'formed a man from the ground.'"

Isaiah 28 is an interesting chapter in scripture, especially in the later verses. The timing of the farmer and the timing of God. This is a chapter relating to the work of God, and the work of a farmer. Farmers don't only plow,

but they know when to stop the plow, they know when to level the ground, and they know what to plant and where. The different tools, methods, and timing all work together. God works in our lives, using methods, experiences, and instruments. God is an expert.

A farmer is working in each of us, so we don't have to despair or doubt what God is doing in our lives. We are reminded here of the perfect timing and wisdom of the Lord God's work in our lives.

The work of CFFO has been filled with many blessings. This year we celebrate 70 years. I would like to acknowledge Simon De Boer who graciously offered to translate the first years of minutes that are written in Dutch, to English. I have gleaned some interesting facts from reading his translation. The first meeting was in March 1954 in Strathroy, ON and the participants were members of other existing associations who had the same purpose, to gather as Christian farmers and to be witnesses of God's word, here in Canada.

The consensus of those first gatherings was that there was a need for a Federation of Christian Farmers. The opinion from that first meeting noted in those translated minutes was that it needed to start now, who would lead such an organization? They needed to find someone of strong leadership who would tackle the issues of the day from a Christian perspective. The minutes recorded this statement, "If we do the groundwork, then future generations can reap the benefits." The basis of the new Federation was that the holy scriptures as an infallible word of God. After the first meeting, an interim board was elected, and so began the first of what became known as CFFO today.

The promotion of a Christian worldview, serving God in our daily work, to protect our rights, but never at the cost of our faith. Speakers like Ing Bakker spoke about the difficulties of immigrant farmers and how things were so much different in Canada than in Holland. "Be polite, even if you think you know better, and make good use of the available labour, finances, building, and equipment" became a motto for many. This motto still rings true today.

70 years later, CFFO is a much larger Christian organization, but the same faith basis applies to our constitution today. We have embraced other Christian faiths all with the same common denominator of Jesus Christ. Today we are blessed with a strong staff that looks after daily affairs, writing policies on today's issues, setting up meetings, and meeting with the different levels of government.

Our CFFO Board of Directors works together to be able to oversee the issues that affect us in the agricultural industry. The variety of backgrounds on

the board makes for functional decisions as many of us come from different agricultural operations.

CFFO has been blessed with a very dedicated General Manager, Tom Tavani, as one who loves the Lord which he reflects in his day-to-day leadership operations. All in all, CFFO has been able to speak out numerous times on our disapproval of the carbon tax for all, the stormwater tax, fertilizer tariffs, the Greenbelt proposals, farmland preservation issues, and many more. All our policy statements can be found on our website.

The spring of 2024 District meetings have seen Ian Cubitt, CFFO Member and Business Transition Coach, talk about succession planning. Ian has been able to deliver a timely message in a biblical light, giving us very insightful, illustrations and biblical references. "One day you will be done, you choose, or time chooses." How will you choose? A big thank you, Ian, for the blessing you were to lead these sessions.

This year CFFO looks forward to moving to our new permanent location in Zorra Township sometime later this summer. This property has a lot of potential to host future meetings, events, picnics, etc. As the CFFO continues to look forward, we know that it's not going to be all smooth sailing; government policies, right or wrong, will continue to be a reality, and we will face constantly changing market conditions, weather conditions, and possibly world influences as we are seeing in Europe.

One constant remains and that we need to hold fast to, as the early founders of our organization did, is that our God is mighty and loving. We need to trust that our Father in Heaven is in charge, and we can faithfully go about our daily work and activities in that knowledge. May we see the blessings of CFFO continue in years ahead to bring honor and glory to his name.

On that note, my hope and wish is that God's blessing be with everyone in the upcoming planting season and that God continues to bless the CFFO.

Blessings,
Ed, CFFO President

THE TEAM

CFFO WELCOMES NEW STAFF

In 2023 two new staff members joined our hardworking team. We welcomed Jackie Rombouts as our new Development Relations Coordinator. Jackie will be working with Districts in western Ontario. Her experience as a pork farmer and in municipal government, and her enthusiasm and passion will be an asset to the organization.

We also welcomed Mackenna Roth as our new Marketing Communications Coordinator. She brings fresh ideas to our marketing strategies, drawn from her previous experience in both farm media and commodity organizations. She is excited to get our message out, and ensure farming members have their voices heard.



TOM TAVANI
GENERAL MANAGER

Tom joined the CFFO in 2021, bringing experience in Christian media marketing and agribusiness. He's also operated his own real estate marketing company. He is a devoted Christian and family man who understands that everything belongs to God.



SUZANNE ARMSTRONG
DIRECTOR OF
POLICY & RESEARCH

Suzanne joined the CFFO in 2015, shortly after completing her research on the CFFO's cultural history and faith connection to stewardship. Suzanne is fascinated by faith and agriculture, food policy and environmental stewardship, all of which play a role into her work for the CFFO.



PAUL BOOTSMA
MEMBERS RELATIONS
MANAGER

Paul has spent his entire life in the ag industry, first in the pork sector and for the last 14 years on staff at CFFO. Working with members across the province has become a joy for him, giving the opportunity to continue to learn about the ag sectors that produce our food.



FRANCES PITKIN
OFFICE MANAGER

Frances came to the CFFO in 2008 with a background in health care and organizational development. Frances is an urbanite with a heart for sustainable local food systems and a love for all animals. She resides in Cambridge with her cat, Tilly.



JACKIE ROMBOUITS
DEVELOPMENT RELATIONS
COORDINATOR

Jackie came to the CFFO in the spring of 2023. She and her husband Adrian own and operate an organic pork farm in Southwestern Ontario. She is a former Mayor and Councillor and enjoys advocating on behalf of Ontario farmers. Jackie has a passion for agriculture and loves working alongside other Christian farmers who share her values and beliefs.



MACKENNA ROTH
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

Mackenna brings a wealth of passion for the agriculture industry, stemming from her upbringing on her family's cash crop farm in Southwestern Ontario. With over a decade of experience in Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations, she is dedicated to sharing the stories of farmers and their tireless efforts. Beyond the office, you'll often find her tending to her garden, exploring nature on a hike, or lending a hand behind the wheel of a tractor.

YEAR IN REVIEW



THE CFFO CONTINUES TO BE A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR OUR FARMING MEMBERS.

FARM PRESERVATION

Farmland preservation remains one of CFFO's chief policy concerns, and CFFO continues to encourage government to protect this precious resource. At a provincial level, proposed changes including a new Proposed Provincial Planning Statement led to key discussions on the impacts of severance policy on farm businesses. CFFO reached out to members through a survey and policy discussions. The importance of a strong voice to government on severances led to cooperation among many farm organizations. We are still awaiting final decisions on changes to the foundational planning policies across the province.

DISTRICT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

Farmland loss primarily happens on the ground through municipal-level decisions. CFFO Districts have been engaged in local efforts to protect parcels of farmland from various types of development. We expect to see an increase in opportunities for this type of engagement into 2024.



VETERINARIANS
ACT

In 2023 the government consulted on updates to the Veterinarians Act. Changes to the Act may impact delivery of services such as small ruminant ultrasound. Veterinarians continue to be in high demand, both in urban and rural contexts. Many rural areas have limited or no access to on-farm veterinary services. CFFO continues to advocate for changes to improve access for all livestock farmers.



MEAT
PROCESSING

The CFFO Abattoir Committee has continued to discuss ongoing issues in the provincially inspected meat processing sector. We have been pleased to see grants toward equipment improvements and expansions. We have also seen some government movement toward more detailed explanations for condemnations. We continue to work along with other industry stakeholders to find solutions.



CARBON
TAX

CFFO continues to advocate to reduce or remove the federal carbon tax, especially as it impacts farmers in Ontario. The CFFO called on government and the Senate to support Bill C-234, while also asking for an amendment that would have extended the exemption for grain drying to include both on and off farm. This Bill has been returned to Parliament with a very different amendment proposed.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Prepared from the Audited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

BALANCE SHEET

	Y/ 2023	Y/ 2022
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash	\$1,183,204	\$181,994
Accounts Receivable	9,996	1,951
Prepaid Expenses	93,163	36,518
Government Remittances Receivable	11,645	18,747
Total Current Assets:	\$1,298,013	\$239,210
LONG-TERM ASSETS:		
Restricted Cash	39,661	39,661
Restricted Investments	142,586	132,783
Investments	720,349	697,802
Capital Assets	12,635	481,079
Total Assets:	\$2,213,244	\$1,590,535
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$44,159	\$73,187
MEMBERS' EQUITY:		
Invested in Capital Assets	12,635	481,079
General Reserve	142,586	132,783
Unrestricted (available for general purpose)	1,974,203	863,825
Capital Reserve	39,661	39,661
Total Net Worth:	2,169,085	1,517,348
Total Liabilities and Net Worth:	\$2,213,244	\$1,590,535

STATEMENT OF CHANGES MEMBERS' EQUITY

	Invested in Capital Assets	General Reserve	Unrestricted (available for general purpose)	Capital Reserve	2023	2022
Equity as at 01 Jan. 2023	\$481,079	\$132,783	\$863,825	\$39,661	\$1,517,348	\$1,498,014
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	(8,632)	-	660,369	-	651,737	19,334
Capital Asset Disposals	(470,255)	-	470,225	-	-	-
Capital Asset Additions	10,413	-	(10,413)	-	-	-
Interfund Transfers	-	9,803	(9,803)	-	-	-
Equity as at 31 Dec. 2023	\$12,635	\$142,586	\$1,974,203	\$39,661	\$2,169,085	\$1,517,348

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	Y/ 2023	Y/ 2022
REVENUES:		
Farm Organization Funding Fees	\$980,309	\$978,825
Interest Income	80,191	30,064
Sponsorships	20,500	12,500
Grants	18,642	14,798
Membership Fees	14,774	13,950
Miscellaneous Income	6,622	2,703
Total Revenues:	\$1,121,038	\$1,052,840
EXPENSES:		
Administrative, Schedule 1	663,971	581,603
Provincial Activities, Schedule 1	230,463	227,860
Qualified Districts (Local Affiliates), Schedule 1	98,033	99,141
District Activities, Schedule 1	136,330	91,469
Total Expenses:	\$1,128,797	\$1,000,073
Excess (deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses Before Other Item	(7,759)	52,767
Other Income Gain on Sale of Capital Assets	668,128	-
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses Before Amortization	660,369	52,767
Amortization	8,632	33,433
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses:	\$651,737	\$19,334

SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES

	Y/ 2023	Y/ 2022
ADMINISTRATIVE:		
Bank Charges and Interest	\$1,336	\$1,041
CSS Donations	8,380	8,151
Equipment Rentals and Maintenance	9,916	10,198
FBR Administration Fees	77,066	79,096
Insurance	5,329	6,698
Office and Printing Supplies	20,356	9,035
Postage and Courier	5,444	6,750
Professional and Consulting Fees	21,751	30,055
Property Taxes	981	11,310
Rent	78,411	725
Repairs and Maintenance	1,656	7,152
Salaries and Benefits	405,683	390,476
Staff Travel and Expenses	16,828	12,420
Telephone & Internet	10,260	6,169
Utilities	574	2,327
Total:	\$663,971	\$581,603

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES:

AGM & Speakers Conference	22,748	20,780
Board and Committees	125,694	107,042
Farm Community Activities	39,361	64,575
Farm Media	42,660	35,463
Total:	\$230,463	\$227,860

Y/ 2023

Y/ 2022

QUALIFIED DISTRICTS (LOCAL AFFILIATES):

Funding to District Associations	\$98,033	\$99,141
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

Newsletters	\$20,040	\$39,240
Meetings and Travel	62,807	31,023
Promotions and Advertising	53,483	21,206
Total:	\$136,330	\$91,469



STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Y/ 2023	Y/ 2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	\$651,737	\$19,334
Adjustment for Amortization	8,632	33,433
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets	(668,128)	-
	(\$7,759)	\$52,767
Net Change in Non-Cash Working Capital Items		
Accounts Receivable	(8,045)	53,513
Prepaid Expenses	(56,650)	(29,999)
Government Remittances Receivable	7,102	(2,565)
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(29,023)	46,814
Total:	(\$94,375)	\$120,530
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of Restricted Investments	(9,803)	-
Purchase of Investments	(22,552)	(20,770)
Purchase of Capital Assets	(10,413)	(23,122)
Proceeds on Disposal of Capital Assets	1,138,353	-
Total:	\$1,095,585	\$(43,892)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	1,001,210	76,638
Cash, Beginning of the Year	221,655	145,017
Cash as of 31 Dec. 2023:	\$1,222,865	\$221,655
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$1,183,204	\$181,994
Restricted Cash	39,661	39,661
Total:	\$1,222,865	\$221,655

SIGNIFICANT NOTES

01

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Executive board members are paid honorariums for the days that they attend board meetings, other meetings related to the organization’s mandate, management services, and any other activities that are board related. There are eight board members with equal voting power for each member. The executive board members review and approve all the changes to the organization’s policies, financial’s, and budgets, and any major changes in activities. These transactions are based on the agreed upon honorarium amount by the board.

Management estimates the fair market value of these activities would be considered to be \$155,280 (\$154,800 - 2022).

	Y/ 2023	Y/ 2022
Honourariums Paid to Board Members	\$77,640	\$77,400

02

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

As of June 3, 2024, the organization is purchasing a new office building located in Zorra Township. A deposit of \$60,017 was paid prior to year end and the purchase price is \$1,230,000, which is expected to be paid with cash.

03

DISTRICT EXPENSES

Contributions have been made directly to 21 districts.

Section 5(4) of the Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act, 1993 Ontario Regulation 723/93, requires the following of the qualified districts (local affiliates):

- (a) it represents at least 10 farming businesses as described in paragraph 5 of the Act.
- (b) persons sitting on its board of directors have been elected, except for persons who were appointed to fill a vacancy or in other exceptional circumstances.;
- (c) has an annual general meeting; and
- (d) is entitled to send a representative to any meeting of the farm organization to which representatives of local affiliates are invited.

Non-qualified districts (unorganised regions) fall short of these four criteria in one way or another.

Direct contributions of \$97,968 were made to the following qualified districts (local affiliates): Chatham-Kent-Essex, Dufferin-Wellington, East Central, Elgin, Grey-Bruce, Huron, Haldimand-Norfolk, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Northeastern Ontario, Oxford, Perth, Quinte, Rainy River, Renfrew-Lanark, Simcoe County, St. Lawrence-Ottawa Valley, Thunder Bay, Wellington, and Wentworth-Brant. These districts have met the standards needed to be considered qualified districts.

No direct contributions were made to non-qualified districts (unorganised regions). There were no districts that did not meet the standards needed to be considered qualified districts.

Direct contributions of \$97,968 were made to the qualified districts (local affiliates). As stated by the Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act, 1993 Ontario Regulation 723/93, Section 5(2)7, these expenses must equal 10% of the part of its gross revenue for any given year that is received from payments made under section 21 of the Act, and is determined before taxes, excluding any refunds that may be paid under subse 21(8) of the Act. The contributions that were made to the qualified districts met this criteria.

04

COMMITMENTS

(a) Payments to Union des Cultivateurs Franco-Ontariens

Under an agreement with the Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), effective January 1, 2008, the organization agrees to pay to Union Des Cultivateurs Franco-Ontariens (UCFO), 1.5% of their net revenue from farm organization funding fees from the prior year. The amount paid in 2023 was \$14,583 (2022 - \$13,934). This agreement shall terminate only if the Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs Tribunal removes the eligibility of the UCFO for special funding, all parties mutually agree to terminate the agreement, or the UCFO has been granted accreditation by the Tribunal.

(b) Administration costs of farm business registration program under an agreement with the Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, the organization has agreed to pay Agricorp \$15.45 for each registration to administer the Farm Business Registration Program in 2022. This agreement can be terminated by either party by giving prior written notice no later than May 31 of any calendar year that the notifying party intends to terminate the agreement.

(c) Other commitments under the terms of various lease agreements and other contracts, the organization will be required to make the following payments:

2024		\$89,211
2025		2,320
Total:		\$91,531

Note: The above summary financial statements are derived from the unqualified audited financial statements dated December 31, 2023. A copy of the financial statement as audited by DBK Accounting Professional Corporation, can be obtained via written request to the organization.



ANNUAL REPORT

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