



Toll-Free:

519-837-1620

(1) 855-800-0306



www.christianfarmers.org



642 Woolwich Street,

Guelph ON, N1H 3Y2

Aug. 31, 2017.

Barb Alves
Senior Policy Advisor
Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs
Policy Division
Economic Development Policy Branch
1 Stone Road West,
Floor 2
Guelph, ON
N1G 4Y2

Dear Minister,

EBR 013-0672 Strategy Framework for the Northern Ontario Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food Processing Sector Strategy under the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is an Accredited Farm Organization representing the interests of over 4,000 farm families in Ontario.

There is significant opportunity for greater expansion of agri-food production and processing in the north. The Strategy for the Agri-food sector seeks to better direct and support this growth. The proposed changes to the Strategy Framework emphasize the need for greater cooperation and collaboration with all communities living in the north, including First Nations and Métis peoples. This is important in the north and across the province.

Under “Objectives” the earlier version called out the importance of “expanding opportunities with new partners” and this included specifically “municipalities” alongside those First Nations and Métis communities that are now listed. CFFO would like to see a broad range of possible new partners still included under this objective, while not losing sight of the importance of emphasis on First Nations and Métis communities.

Overall, the CFFO strongly supports the goal of “strengthening the role of agriculture, aquaculture, and food processing in the economy of Northern Ontario.” We hope that the government will continue to move forward with the Strategy and will implement government supports that will enable entrepreneurial success for those working to expand the sector in this region.

We appreciate this opportunity to respond to this draft proposal, and thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Clarence Nywening, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario