



Toll-Free:

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www.christianfarmers.org



642 Woolwich Street,

Guelph ON, N1H 3Y2

September 25, 2017.

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne,
Premier of the Province of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne,

Support for Farmland Protection

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

The CFFO supports the continued protection of this province's farmland. Farmland is the single most important resource in Ontario. Farmland protection and the fostering of a sustainable agricultural and agri-food industry is critical to our economic, social, and environmental success.

It is necessary to expand and improve protection of the agricultural land base to help promote a more diversified economy. A flourishing agri-food sector that emphasizes access to local food can help to protect the integrity of this land and promote sustainable development in rural Ontario. The continued loss of farmland and an increasing population will lead Ontario to lose its ability to be food self-sufficient and damage the local economy. The maintenance and protection of the agricultural land base is critical to sustainable economic development, job creation, investment and growth.

Farmland helps shape our identity and provides Ontarians with a sense of place. Action is necessary to preserve Ontario's rural character through the preservation and expansion of the agricultural land base and agri-food system; efforts to support rural communities are necessary to improve our long-term future.

Protecting farmland also protects the natural features and environmental goods and services which are part of our Ontario farmland, including forests and wetlands. The agricultural land base and natural heritage systems within Ontario provide important linkages and habitats for species at risk and other wildlife. There is an evident need for the expansion of important systems, such as the Greenbelt, to promote better farmland protection, higher air quality, clean water, improved carbon sequestration, and preservation of natural features.

THE GENERAL FARM ORGANIZATION THAT IS ROOTED IN FAITH & GUIDED BY VALUES



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Land use planning is not enough to ensure these lands will continue to be farmed and preserved; intervention is necessary to establish a management approach to protecting farmland and associated natural features. A sustainable future starts with an equitable balance in our long-term economic, social, and environmental actions towards protecting these critical resources.

The rate of farmland loss is disrupting Ontario's agricultural communities, farm economy, and agricultural ecosystems. We need to act now to establish mechanisms to permanently protect farmland.

We appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence Nywening".

Clarence Nywening, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario