

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
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Ontario

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Tom Shurrie
President & CEO
Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers
tshurrie@cfig.ca

Dear Tom Shurrie,

As we celebrate the beginning of Local Food Week, I wanted to say thank you to everyone who makes local food in Ontario possible.

Something that fills me with pride as an Ontarian and as Minister is the commitment of everyone in our food supply chain – our farmers, food processors and agri-food businesses – who make our province's reputation for safe, quality food known around the world. It's our agri-food heroes, and the incredible foods they grow, produce and process every day, that we recognize during Local Food Week.

Now more than ever, it's important for people in Ontario to support the producers and small businesses in our communities by filling our plates with delicious, nutritious local food. From crisp peppers to prime cuts of steak, tender cherries to premium chicken, beets you can't beat to the best array of cheeses around, there are so many nutritious and delicious Ontario options to choose from and enjoy.

Over the last year, as Ontarians have become more aware of the crucial role farmers play in our daily lives and economy, it's an opportunity for all of us to increase food literacy. Because when we know where our food comes from, we help inspire Ontario's future agricultural leaders who will feed generations to come.

I want to thank everyone who is working hard to make our agri-food sector the success it is and have been working around the clock to keep store shelves stocked and food on our kitchen tables. This Local Food Week, we celebrate you and everyone in our agri-food sector by enjoying the good things that grow in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs



Good things grow in Ontario
À bonne terre, bons produits

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