

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

Office of the Minister

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3
Tel: 416-326-3074
www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA

**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales**

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Grenville, 11^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1B3
Tél. : 416 326-3074
www.ontario.ca/MAAARO



Ontario

October 4, 2021

Gary Sands
Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy
Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers
gsands@cfig.ca

Dear Gary Sands:

I want to take this opportunity during Agriculture Week to express my gratitude and admiration for the work you do. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our communities by bringing high quality food to our tables.

The last year and a half have been challenging and I want to commend all the agri-food heroes across our province who have continued to grow, raise, process and distribute Ontario foods and have done incredible work keeping our food supply chain operating.

As Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs and a farmer myself, I am proud to support our sector by focusing on creating the opportunities that ensure rural communities and agriculture businesses are competitive at home and abroad, and that rural economies, of which agriculture is key, are respected and protected.

I believe that our sector should be proud of what we contribute to the province – not just the great food that we produce, but to the hundreds of thousands of jobs we create and the billions of dollars we contribute to the provincial economy.

.../2

Your dedication deserves our thanks every day, not just during Agriculture Week. Please know that I am as passionate as you are about our sector and I will continue to listen to your needs and concerns as we build on our successes together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Thompson" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

COVID-19 Reminders

- For vaccination booking details visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>
- Follow your local public health/safety measures: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>
- Practice physical distancing – stay 2 metres away from others in public
- Get the facts - www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread