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LONG-TERM THINKING FOR TODAY'S ISSUES

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April 1, 2020.

Hon. Ernie Hardeman  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
77 Grenville St., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 1B3

## Re: Plan for Isolation of SAWP Workers in Haldimand-Norfolk

Dear Minister Hardeman,

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is an Accredited Farm Organization representing the interests of over 4,000 farm families in Ontario who are called to the vocation of farming. CFFO policy promotes economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable farming, advocating that farmers receive fair return for their production and stewardship efforts.

We are writing on behalf of our members in Haldimand-Norfolk. The CFFO wants to ensure that through the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), workers are able to safely and quickly provide essential labour to farms in this region. The local Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit has requested that farmers submit “a list of names of all seasonal workers scheduled to arrival in Canada, their planned date of arrival” and has also requested that “a plan for isolation of the workers has been shared and approved by the health unit” before workers can arrive. Requiring that submitted plans wait for approval will, in all likelihood, result in unnecessary and damaging delays.

We recognize the importance of having a plan in place to ensure the 14 days of isolation upon arrival. We ask that you work with Haldimand-Norfolk Health and Social Services to facilitate safe isolation practices on farms, or in other local facilities to ensure the necessary isolation period can be observed without delays caused by awaiting further approvals.

The asparagus and ginseng crops are already facing problems because of the delay before workers can be in the field. Any further delay will result in lost harvest, delayed planting, and other crop losses which will be damaging to local farm businesses and to our local Ontario food supply.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this time sensitive issue.

Sincerely,

Ed Scharringa, President  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario