



His Worship John Tory  
 Mayor, City of Toronto  
 100 Queen St. W.  
 City Hall, Second floor, West  
 Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

March 18, 2021

**Regarding: City of Toronto public consultation meeting relative to opening of TruHarvest Meats in the Stockyard district**

Dear Sir:

The organizations signed below are writing to you because we have serious concerns regarding the handling of a public constituency meeting about the opening of a new business, TruHarvest Meats, in the stockyard district. This meeting was hosted on March 3rd by the City of Toronto.

At this public consultation, the discussion included a lawyer encouraging civil action against a business that has done nothing wrong, is operating legally and has complied with all rules and regulations. By making no attempt to explain these facts or others to those in attendance, the City, the Councillor and local MP implicitly endorsed such actions.

While some of the concerns raised during the meeting merit clarification and discussion, proposing actions to force closure or relocation and threatening unwarranted legal action seem extreme. Rather, it is important to create awareness and educate residents about the critical role this and other food processing businesses in the stockyard district play in feeding Toronto and Ontario every day.

Industrial food and meat processing has legally operated in the Stockyards district for more than 120 years, peacefully co-existing with its neighbours. It is home to Ontario's two largest beef processing plants – TruHarvest and St. Helens – which process up to 40 percent of the province's beef. These two plants play a significant role in ensuring food security for the City of Toronto and the province. TruHarvest Meats is also a critical supplier of kosher meat products for the city.

Together, the two operations employ 1000 local residents and provide many well-paying jobs for highly skilled workers. The plants also support more than 20,000 family farms across Ontario, with numerous producers located in the rural areas surrounding Toronto.

During this pandemic, Ontarians and Torontonians came as close to food shortages as we have ever been since the second world war. Panic buying and COVID-19 outbreaks at some processing plants led to bare shelves in many stores. This reminds us all of the true importance of the Canadian food chain, our food sovereignty and why we must protect our local processing capacity.

For over a century, Toronto has been, and continues to be, a leader in ensuring food security for this city and the province, through the Stockyard district and the critical processing capacity located there. The food processed in Toronto allows us to reduce our reliance on imported food while creating economic and employment opportunities.

Over the past two decades, Ontario's meat processing sector has seen a 54 percent drop in independent processors. We need to be investing in these small and medium-sized businesses to help restart our economy and ensure food security for the future.

We are at a critical point for our food processing in the city and the province, but we have an opportunity. We ask Your Worship and the City of Toronto to work with us to continue and entrench your century-old legacy of leadership in protecting the food security of your city and the province in the Stockyards industrial district. Together, Toronto Economic Development and leaders from meat processing, food and agriculture can create a vision for the future that includes educating consumers about the importance of food security, processing and the tremendous asset Toronto has created to protect its food supply for residents.



The undersigned meat and industry associations support the recommendation of the formation of a working group or committee to look at these issues as they affect the food processing industry in the City of Toronto. We recommend that that consultation be led by City of Toronto Economic Development. In addition to addressing concerns that were raised in the public consultations, its purpose should include education of the City about the history and tradition of the industrial lands, their cultural, religious and agriculture significance as well as the importance of the economic and job outputs created from this district. A critical part of the mandate should be recognition and education about the importance food processing businesses in this district play in a broader context to address food security for the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any points in this letter further.

Sincerely,

Carol Goriup – President, Meat and Poultry Ontario  
519-763-4558 [president@meatpoultryon.ca](mailto:president@meatpoultryon.ca)

Rob Lipsett – President, Beef Farmers of Ontario  
519-824-0334 [president@ontariobeef.com](mailto:president@ontariobeef.com)

Pascal Bouilly – Chair, Veal Farmers of Ontario  
519-824-2942 [vfochair@vealfarmers.ca](mailto:vfochair@vealfarmers.ca)

Peggy Brekveld – President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
807-707-2814 [peggy.brekveld@ofa.on.ca](mailto:peggy.brekveld@ofa.on.ca)

Ed Scharringa – President, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario  
519-837-1620 [president@christianfarmers.org](mailto:president@christianfarmers.org)

Chris White – President & CEO, Canadian Meat Council  
613-729-3911 [chris@cmc-cvc.com](mailto:chris@cmc-cvc.com)

Eric Schwindt – Board Chair, Ontario Pork  
519-767-4600 [eric.schwindt@ontariopork.on.ca](mailto:eric.schwindt@ontariopork.on.ca)

Marc Carere – Chair, Ontario Sheep Farmers  
519-836-0043 [careremarc@gmail.com](mailto:careremarc@gmail.com)

Norm Beal – CEO, Food and Beverage Ontario  
905-704-9317 [foodbeverageontario.ca](http://foodbeverageontario.ca)

Brian Ricker – Chair, Turkey Farmers of Ontario  
519-748-9636 [info@turkeyfarmers.on.ca](mailto:info@turkeyfarmers.on.ca)

Don Ciparis – President, National Farmers Union, Ontario  
705-738-3993 [donciparis@gmail.com](mailto:donciparis@gmail.com)

Cc: Hon. Doug Ford (Etobicoke North) Premier, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Hon. Ernie Hardeman (Oxford) Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (Compton-Stanstead)  
The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
(York South-Weston)  
Faisal Hassan (York South-Weston) Critic, Youth Opportunities, Member,  
Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly  
John Vanthof (Timiskaming-Cochrane) Commissioner, Board of Internal Economy, Critic,  
Agriculture and Food, Rural Development Deputy Leader, Official Opposition, Chief Opposition Whip  
Frances Nunziata (York South-Weston) Toronto City Councillor, Council Speaker  
Jan De Silva President & CEO Toronto Board of Trade  
Rocco Rossi President & CEO Ontario Chamber of Commerce



## Opening of TruHarvest Meats in the Stockyard district

# Briefing Document

March 18, 2021

## Stockyards District and Public Consultation Meeting held March 3, 2021 Briefing Document



ONTARIO PORK



The following information is provided to Your Worship as further facts worthy of consideration in the discussion about the Stockyards industrial district as this information may not be readily available to you or your officials.

### Concerns Raised

The main concerns raised by residents during the public consultation meeting were as follows:

- Health and safety violations in the past
- Environmental standards and enforcement
- Odours
- Noise
- Increased truck traffic
- Health concerns relative to smokestacks
- Animal Welfare


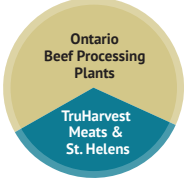




There are a number of important facts relevant to the discussion at the March 3rd meeting that were not properly addressed:

- TruHarvest Meats is a new business that is now operating in an existing facility that is properly zoned. The new business is separate and distinct from the business that previously operated there.
- TruHarvest Meats has acted in good faith as a responsible corporate citizen and taxpayer to bring local employment and local food to the City of Toronto.
- Our industry businesses have always worked closely with officials to ensure all rules and regulations are followed, (including environmental standards), and to go above and beyond to address any local issues or concerns while allowing the business to operate successfully.
- TruHarvest Meats is a vital contributor to Kosher food security in Toronto. When the previous business at 70 Glen Scarlet Road closed, the Kosher community was forced to seek supply from Western Canada and Mexico.
- Having high quality, safe, readily available food processing facilities enables Toronto and Ontario to reduce reliance on imported food overall while creating economic and employment opportunities.
- Moving any processing facility is a huge undertaking requiring years of planning and massive investment. Any processing plant relocation causes disruptions to food supply and affects jobs in the area where the plant has been operating. Since highly skilled workers are required in meat processing, such workers are not easy to replace and there is often a skills shortage.
- The two meat processing plants operating in the Stockyards district make a significant contribution to secondary jobs in transportation, further processing, retail and wholesale as well as restaurants, institutional facilities and hotels in the City of Toronto and the province.
- The previous business that operated at 70 Glen Scarlet Road underwent an extensive study to ensure compliance with all environmental regulations relating to air emissions and noise, which was approved in March 2020. This is currently in the process of transition to TruHarvest Meats.



- Federal inspectors are present at TruHarvest Meats and every other plant in Canada that handles live animals during every minute of operation. This ensures compliance with rules, regulations and standards.
- The Stockyards industrial area and the meat processing within it have played a significant role in the city's rich history and economic prosperity and continues to do so.
- This represents an opportunity to encourage ongoing dialogue and education about why the Stockyard district exists and its role in ensuring food security.

### Quick Facts

<p><b>Change in independent meat processing capacity since 1999:</b></p>  <p>Today, Ontario has only 46% of the meat processing capacity it had in 1999. This significantly impacts our food security.</p>	<p><b>Ontario Beef Processing Plants</b></p>  <p>Two of the largest meat processing facilities in Ontario, TruHarvest Meats and St. Helens, are located in the Stockyards industrial district. They produce <b>30-40 percent</b> of Ontario's beef, thereby playing a significant role in food security for this city as well as the province.</p>	 <p><b>\$393 Million</b></p> <p>The meat sector's exports contribute significantly to the economy of the Province of Ontario and all of Canada.</p>
<p><b>Ontario beef and veal sectors:</b></p> <p>Contribute <b>\$3 billion</b> to Ontario's GDP yearly</p> <p>Gross sales from the sector exceed <b>\$13 billion</b></p> <p>Sustain more than <b>61,000</b> jobs in farming, retail, and processing.</p>	 <p><b>CODE OF PRACTICE</b></p> <p>All federal meat plants including TruHarvest Meats support the National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practices and participate in the Canadian Livestock Transport Certification Program to ensure animal welfare.</p>	 <p>The government of Ontario encourages us to buy locally produced food. Processing in this city is an integral and necessary part of the food chain that enables us to provide high quality meat products that are produced by farmers in the areas surrounding Toronto.</p>
 <p><b>The Canadian meat industry is among the most intensely regulated and inspected in the world.</b></p>	<p><b>The meat industry is, by far, the largest component of Canada's food processing sector and the City of Toronto is an active player that benefits significantly.</b></p>	<p><b>Producing and processing our meat locally protects our economy, reduces environmental and animal welfare concerns</b></p> <p>by limiting the distance animals must travel for processing and protects our food supply.</p>
<p><b>The Stockyards industrial area and the meat processing within it have played a significant role in the city's rich history and economic prosperity and continues to do so.</b></p>	<p><b>TruHarvest Meats is a critical supplier of Kosher meat in Toronto.</b></p> <p>When the plant was not in operation, product had to be sourced from Western Canada and Mexico.</p>	<p><b>The Stockyard District has been zoned as industrial since 1900.</b></p> <p>This is how the Stockyards got its name. All residents in proximity to this industrial area have clauses in their property titles stipulating that the housing is located next to a designated industrial area which generates smells as well as traffic.</p> <p><b>Homeowners chose to move to this area knowing these facts.</b></p>