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LONG-TERM THINKING FOR TODAY'S ISSUES

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March 19, 2020

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
1341 Baseline Road  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0C5

## **Re: Border Restrictions - Impact on SAWP and TFWP**

Dear Minister Bibeau,

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.

The CFFO is writing on behalf of our members to urge you to act quickly in support of our Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) and Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). Border restrictions must not prohibit workers necessary for agriculture from entering Canada. This is a critical time for our fruit and vegetable farm operations to begin spring work and ensure the crop for the coming season. Our farms depend on access to workers through both the SAWP and TFWP now and through the coming growing season.

The CFFO recognizes the importance of protecting public health in the face of the COVID19 pandemic health crisis. We recognize that increasing measures are being implemented to contain the spread of the virus. At the same time, it is important that vital industries, including agriculture and food processing, are able to continue to function as smoothly as possible. This will protect our food sovereignty and support economic activity in these difficult times.

Suitable restrictions can be put in place to quarantine workers for the required 14 days upon arrival to prevent risk of spreading disease.

We request that the government work as quickly as possible to ensure that workers can come to Canada and be working on farms. This will secure the vital spring season and ongoing crop year for our fruit and vegetable operations.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarence Nywening', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Clarence Nywening, President  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

cc: Hon. Filomena Tassi, MP, Minister of Labour, Canada  
Hon. Carla Qualtrough, MP, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion  
Hon. Ernie Hardeman, MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario