



*Long-Term Thinking
for Today's Issues*

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

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Hon Rick Bartolucci
Ontario Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
25 Grovenor st, 18th floor,
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Hon Rick Bartolucci

RE: Powers of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) has a number of concerns regarding the specific powers of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA). While we fully support that animals need to be treated with a proper level of care, our organization's believes that the current powers of the OSPCA need to be curtailed in moderate ways.

OSPCA officers are able to enter a farmer's property and investigate without a warrant. This has the added potential negative effect of jeopardizing on-farm food safety. The OSPCA should always be required to obtain a warrant to enter premises, with a strong definition of reasonable grounds.

Furthermore, OSPCA officers must be properly trained in current generally accepted farm practices, and be able to identify when a real problem is occurring.

Finally, the CFFO would like reasonable costs to be established for the care of seized animals in the event that it is proved that the animals were unduly seized by an OSPCA officer.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important matters.

Regards,

Henry Stevens, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

C.C. Stephen Waldie, Director of External Relations
C.C. Mike Zimmerman, Project Manager, Animal Welfare
C.C. Crystal MacKay, Executive Director, OFAC