



*serving agriculture
since 1954*

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

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The CFFO and “One Farm Voice”

Guelph, February 2005. Farmers have been talking about “One Farm Voice” to deliver messages to politicians and policy-makers. And people have been asking where the CFFO stands on this idea.

The CFFO is committed to working with other farm organizations to deliver common messages on appropriate actions required from government. We will stand with other farm organizations on actions of mutual agreement. However, we have strong reservations about moving beyond one common message to one common farm organization.

The CFFO is not in favour of combining existing provincial farm organizations into only one farm organization. We maintain that Ontario is far too diverse to have only one farm organization. Farmers in Ontario produce an incredible array of commodities through a wide variety of marketing approaches. Some farmers prefer wide open markets with little government interference, while others prefer the security of regulated marketing. It's highly unlikely that Ontario's diversity can be accommodated in any singular farm organization.

That being said, there are definite benefits Ontario farm groups can receive from working closer together. For one, costs are reduced to farmers. In addition, certain common initiatives are important to all farmers. Ontario has developed its own unique approach to delivering common messages and cost-cutting through coalitions. Ontario's farmers are well represented through coalitions like the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition, the Ontario Farm Animal Council, the Agricultural Odyssey Group, the President's Council and many others.

The CFFO has long been supportive of creating an umbrella organization for farmers based on the current diversity among Ontario farm groups. We maintain that the current President's Council, a spin-off from the Agricultural Odyssey Group, should serve as that umbrella group and be structured to allow full participation from all Ontario farm groups in determining messages and strategies.

The CFFO is in favour of “One Farm Voice” --- as long as it is structured to build unity based on diversity and full participation.

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