



LONG-TERM THINKING FOR TODAY'S ISSUES

February 21, 2020

Hon. Ernie Hardeman, MPP
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor, 77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1B3
Sent via email: minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Re: Request for Minimum Distance Separation for Cannabis Production Operations

Dear Minister,

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 to request the establishment of minimum distance separation policies for cannabis-growing operations. Cannabis facilities present an altogether different level of disruption compared with the regular farming practices of more traditional commodities, which are already governed by minimum distance separation rules.

The establishment of such facilities near residential areas has affected the quality of life of nearby inhabitants due to the sound, light and odour pollution resulting from cannabis-growing operations. It has also presented onerous pressures on rural municipalities to respond to residential complaints.

This request is written in response to CFFO member complaints; a resolution passed by the Council of the Township of Enniskillen, Lambton County, September 2019; and a resolution supported by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture at their Annual General Meeting, November 18-19, 2019. In short, farmers and rural residents living near cannabis facilities want this change.

Thank you for consideration. We would be pleased to provide further consultation on this issue.

Sincerely,

Clarence Nywening, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

CC: Hon. Patty Hajdu, MP, Minister of Health
Keith Curry, President OFA
Judy Krall, Deputy Mayor, Township of Enniskillen, Lambton County, Ontario