



LONG-TERM THINKING FOR TODAY'S ISSUES

January 14, 2021

Mr. Daryl Kramp, MPP, Hastings-Lennox and Addington
26A St. Lawrence St. W
Madoc, ON K0K 2K0
Via email: Daryl.Kramp@pc.ola.org

Re: Support for Private Member's Bill 216 – Food Literacy for Students Act

Dear Mr. Kramp,

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 has reviewed *Bill 216 Food Literacy for Students Act, 2020*, proposing changes to the *Education Act* regarding food literacy. CFFO wishes to add our support to this Bill. In particular, we see significant value in ensuring all students in the province from grades 1–12 receive experiential food literacy education in both growing and preparing food, as well as learning about local food.

Greater confidence in safely preparing food will encourage students and their families to eat healthful diets and to reduce household food waste. Food literacy is a vital life skill that contributes to overall health and wellbeing.

Food literacy also fosters a respect for food and food systems. We strongly encourage the inclusion of wider issues related to food literacy, including food safety, food security and food systems, in the provincial curriculum. We believe Ontario students will benefit from a holistic approach to food literacy.

Misinformation about health and nutrition, and about modern agriculture, occurs with troubling frequency in media and social media; Ontario's students will benefit from accurate information about nutrition and food systems in a classroom setting.

This Act will ensure that experiential food literacy is available and required for all students across the province. We applaud your efforts in bringing forward this Act, and support the changes it proposes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Scharringa".

Ed Scharringa, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario