

# FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

April 25, 2014

Hon. Michael Gravelle  
Minister of Northern Development and Mines  
Whitney Block, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 5630  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear Minister Gravelle:

*Michael!*

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) and their recognition of northern Ontario's agriculture industry.

The development of the Regional Tile Drainage and Land Clearing Project through NOHFC's Strategic Economic Infrastructure Program, highlights the potential that the agriculture industry in northern Ontario holds. This project demonstrates the Province's commitment to encourage economic development within the industry. Municipalities in the north are appreciative and have provided positive feedback on the project to date.

Improving the sustainability of the agriculture industry in the north also supports the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario's development strategy to grow and retain existing competitive businesses as well as diversification into value-added business opportunities. Since agriculture was listed as an existing and emerging priority economic sector, it is important that efforts are made to reflect this. Ensuring that expansion and further production in the north is undertaken will provide a sustainable local food source and greater economic stability for northern Ontario residents.

FONOM believes agriculture holds a bright future in the north and we would be happy to assist your Ministry with any further development.

Sincerely,

*Alan Spacek*

Alan Spacek, President

Cc: Bruce Strapp, Executive Director, NOHFC