

FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

March 8, 2015

Honourable Jeff Leal
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1B3
SENT VIA EMAIL:
minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Leal,



On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), we would like to express our sincere gratitude for meeting with our organization during the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) / Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) on February 22, 2016.

As you are aware, the agriculture industry in Northern Ontario has seen significant investments and areas of growth over the last decade. As the region continues to diversify its economy and temperatures rise as a result of climate change, the North is becoming an increasingly attractive region to invest and grow the sector.

Making Crown lands available to farmers would promote many of the initiatives outlined in the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, including agriculture which as you are aware, was outlined as an existing and emerging priority economic sector. While we acknowledge the complexity of releasing Crown lands for development purposes, we are therefore asking the Province to implement an agriculture pilot project in the Northeast and in the Northwest.

We were appreciative of your supportive comments and the recognition from your Ministry that there is a need to grow the agriculture industry in the North. Once again, thank you for meeting with our organization and we look forward to working with your Ministry on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek
President