

Ms. Marilyn Braun-Pollon
Vice President, Prairie and Agri-Business,
Canadian Federation of Independent Business

Dear Ms. Braun-Pollon:

Thank you for your July 7, 2017, email sharing the Canadian Federation of Independent Business' (CFIB's) top priorities for the next agricultural policy framework (NPF), and the results of your latest Our Farm Members' Opinion (OFMO) survey. I appreciate hearing about the impacts of the current operating environment on your 7,200 agri-business members across Canada, and what your membership has identified as priorities in the development of the NPF.

Through a series of stakeholder roundtables and a public online survey that were held this spring, I heard directly from Alberta's agricultural leaders about how the new framework should address priorities such as trade and market development, research and innovation, risk management, environmental sustainability, value-added agriculture and agri-food processing, and maintaining public trust in the sector. The "What We Heard" report from these engagements is available on the Growing Forward 2 website, www.growingforward.alberta.ca (under the Next Agricultural Policy Framework News tab).

As for the concerns about the administrative burden of the programs and lengthy application process that I noted in your summary report, these are areas that I have challenged Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff to address in the design and implementation of Alberta's NPF programs.

I believe the long-term success of agriculture relies on the ingenuity, hard work, and commitment to excellence by our producers and agri-based businesses. Through our collective efforts, the next framework should enable Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-products industry to address current and emerging economic, environmental, and social factors, while remaining competitive at home and abroad.

Thank you again for sharing your members' input on the NPF and the results of the OFMO survey.

Sincerely,

Oneil Carlier
Minister
Agriculture and Forestry

cc: Anthony Clark, Chief of Staff
Bev Yee, Deputy Minister
Dave Burdek, Assistant Deputy Minister
Jamie Curran, Assistant Deputy Minister
Bruce Mayer, Assistant Deputy Minister
CFIB, AB