



Background – The Presidents’ Council

The Presidents’ Council is an agricultural “think tank” comprised of representatives from 27 Ontario-based industry organizations (see below). Formed in 2004, the Council’s mission is to identify and prioritize the various issues and opportunities facing Ontario’s agriculture industry. It also serves as a forum for dialogue and collaboration between the various agricultural stakeholders in the province.

Most Council members represent producer and commodity marketing boards such as dairy, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, cash crops (e.g. soybeans and canola) and livestock (e.g. beef cattle, hogs, chickens) while others bring experience from related academia and government organizations. Each of these organizations has a unique background and specific needs relative to its members and its sector within the industry, but they all share a common goal in the need to ensure the future sustainability of agriculture in the province.

Members of the Presidents’ Council include:

- AGCare
- Chicken Farmers of Ontario
- Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
- Dairy Farmers of Ontario
- Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission
- Ontario Apple Growers
- Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.
- Ontario Cattlemen’s Association
- Egg Farmers of Ontario
- Ontario Farm Animal Council
- Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers’ Marketing Board
- Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers’ Association
- Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition
- Grape Growers of Ontario
- Ontario Potato Board
- Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association
- Ontario Pork
- Ontario Tender Fruit Producers Marketing Board
- Ontario Soybean Growers
- Ontario Canola Growers’ Association
- L’Union des cultivateurs-franco-ontariens
- Ontario Veal
- National Farmers Union Ontario
- University of Guelph – Research Office
- Ontario Asparagus Growers Marketing Board
- Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency
- Turkey Farmers of Ontario

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The Council meets three to four times per year and has one part-time contract administrative staff person. The Council is funded by annual membership dues. The current Chair is Greg Devries, Past Chair of the Ontario Soybean Growers. Greg is serving his second term as Chair.

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