



November 27, 2024

Murray McDonald  
President, Rainy River Cattlemen's Association

Dear Murray,

*Re: Provincial Abattoir Funding 24-12*

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The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

**WHEREAS**, small community abattoirs are finding it financially challenging to keep the doors open; and

**WHEREAS**, we appreciate the Government programs that have been offered to our plants but cost-share is not always achievable with the financial difficulties these small plants are currently in;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby our provincial government for some type of base funding for these abattoirs that are meeting the demands of locally grown and processed Ontario Beef.**

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Rainy River Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Directors can appreciate the challenges small community abattoirs are faced with. It should be noted that, since this resolution was brought forward, BFO has raised these concerns at both the provincial and federal levels of government.

In June of this year, BFO attended an agriculture roundtable focused on key topics impacting small businesses hosted by the Honourable Associate Minister of Small Business, Nina Tangri. BFO expressed that it is difficult for small businesses, such as small community abattoirs, to take advantage of cost-share programs due to a lack of available cash flow.

We recommended strategic investments that align the government's provincial agri-food strategy, Grow Ontario. These include a combination of no-interest, non-repayable loans and funding programs with a higher cost-share percentage that would allow abattoirs to meet the growing demand for Ontario beef while enhancing their financial stability.

Earlier this month, we had meetings in Ottawa with Members of Parliament and held a lobby day at Queen's Park in Toronto where we met with Members of Provincial Parliament to discuss a number of our priorities. The recommendations noted above were brought up along with a request for simplified programming and a sufficient funding window that will allow businesses the ability to plan, build and execute their growth strategies.

We will continue to advocate on behalf of community abattoirs and again, thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Craig McLaughlin  
President

cc: James Gibson (Mover)  
Delton Martin (Advisory Councillor and Seconder)  
Kim Jo Bliss (Secretary)