

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

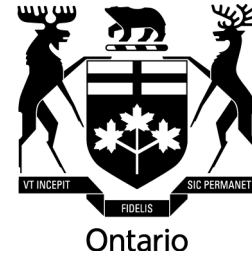
Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales**

Bureau du ministre

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January 12, 2021

Tim Halliday
President
Perth County Federation of Agriculture
thalliday33@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Halliday:

Thank you for sharing the Perth County Federation of Agriculture's views on the importance of protecting prime agricultural land for agriculture. I fully appreciate the need to protect agricultural land to support farmers and rural communities, create jobs, strengthen Ontario's economy and produce the farm products we all depend on and enjoy.

Land use planning involves carefully balancing provincial interests and policy considerations, such as supporting a strong economy while effectively managing resources.

OMAFRA's Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) guidance document is expected to be published in winter 2021. It aims to help ensure the impacts from certain proposed non-agricultural uses in prime agricultural areas are assessed and strategies are identified to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts. Outside the Greater Golden Horseshoe, AIAs are not required by the new Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS). Even so, PPS policies require protection of prime agricultural areas, examination of alternative locations for non-agricultural uses and mitigation of impacts on surrounding agricultural operations to the extent feasible. The AIA guidance will be a helpful resource to satisfy these policies.

Regarding the use of Ministerial Zoning Orders in Perth and your recommendation that AIAs be required for all proposed non-agricultural land uses in the agricultural area, I am sharing your letter with The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Minister Clark leads land use planning under the Planning Act and has the authority to issue Ministerial Zoning Orders.

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I want to thank you for your important work with the Perth County Federation of Agriculture and I wish you all the best in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernie Hardeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping tail.

Ernie Hardeman

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

c: Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

COVID-19 Reminders

- Practise physical distancing – stay 2 metres away from others in public
- Wash your hands – with soap and water thoroughly and often
- Get the facts - www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread