



November 19, 2013 – Sent via email

Honourable Deb Matthews  
Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
80 Grosvenor St. 10th Floor Hepburn Block  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food  
77 Grenville St., 11th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

Dear Minister Matthews and Minister Wynne,

The Ontario Independent Meat Processors association represents the province's family-owned meat and poultry processors – businesses that provide a service to Ontario's agriculture community and contribute to their local economy. The reputation and success of these companies depends upon delivering safe and wholesome product that is supported by science based regulations.

On January 1, 2014, under Ontario Meat Regulation 31/05 of the Food Safety and Quality Act, foodservice establishments manufacturing meat products that are considered high risk will become exempt, while meat plants or butcher shops producing the same product are required to be licensed.

Throughout the consultation on proposed amendments and in discussions with OMAF staff, OIMP on behalf of the industry, has expressed our concerns that a foodservice establishment poses the same level of food safety risk as a meat plant if they are using curing agents or restricted ingredients, or operating a smokehouse located inside or outside their establishment. Additionally on January 1, 2014, OMAF licensed meat plants will be required to implement validated process controls and/or end product testing to support the production of safe fermented sausage and dried meat products and will incur costs to meet these requirements.

Food safety is our primary concern, regardless of where the product is made, as one foodborne illness, or worse death, affects the entire industry. Ontario's provincially licensed meat plants are looking for the assurances that Public Health Inspectors under the Food Premise Regulation will be providing the equivalent oversight and regulatory standards to address the food safety risks with the manufacturing of high risk products.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding your approach and commitment to ensuring Ontario consumers and Ontario's provincially licensed meat plants are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Van Groningen".

Cory Van Groningen  
OIMP President

cc: Deputy Minister Deb Stark