

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

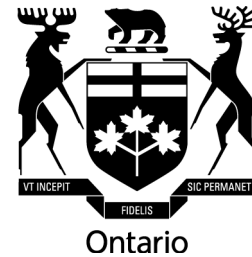
Office of the Minister

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

Bureau du ministre

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February 4, 2021

Bill Schenck
Irrigation Committee Chair
wmjschenck@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Schenck

Thank you for sharing information about your plans to leverage funding from the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) to improve irrigation infrastructure in the Niagara region.

I understand your irrigation infrastructure is important for the region's tender fruit and viticulture industries.

My government is committed to helping Ontario's agri-food sector be successful, competitive and a key driver for the economy.

I commend you for being proactive in seeking federal funding for expanding irrigation infrastructure and improving the existing irrigation infrastructure through the CIB.

My colleague, the Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure, has overall responsibility for provincial infrastructure programs. I will discuss your challenges with her. The Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI) has monthly meetings with the CIB and Eric Brox, who works in my ministry's Deputy Minister's office, has been invited to connect with them. I look forward to hearing how we can leverage this opportunity.

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Also, OMAFRA staff are available to provide technical and policy support to your project. You are welcome to contact Rebecca Shortt at rebecca.shortt@ontario.ca or 519-420-7645 and Mike Marcolongo at Mike.Marcolongo@ontario.ca or 226-820-0063.

Please keep me updated with the progress of your infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Hardeman', with a large, stylized initial 'E'.

Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

c: The Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure
Eric Brox, Executive Assistant, Deputy Minister's Office, OMAFRA
Rebecca Shortt, Engineer, Water Quality, Environmental Management Branch,
OMAFRA
Mike Marcolongo, Policy Advisor, Economic Development Policy Branch,
OMAFRA

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