

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

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
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Ontario

April 14, 2021

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair
Regional Municipality of Niagara
jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca

Dear Regional Chair Bradley:

One of our government's top priorities is to guard against the spread of COVID-19. I know this has been a challenging time for everyone and I would like to start by thanking you for your dedication and commitment to ensure your farms and agri-food workplaces are safe during COVID-19, and Ontario's food supply stays healthy and strong.

As announced in the 2021 Ontario government budget, Ontario is investing \$10 million to extend funding for a re-designed Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program to enable more farmers and agri-food operators to protect their workers' health and safety, and increase the sector's resilience in managing the extraordinary costs related of COVID-19.

I encourage you to watch for detailed program information and application forms when the intake opens on April 22, 2021. Applications will be accepted while funding is available or until November 30, 2021. The approval process has been simplified and will be expedited to help support workplace health and safety in the agri-food sector.

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I encourage you to share the information in this letter as well as upcoming details that will be shared through social media with others who may find it helpful.

Again, thank you for your commitment to safeguard against the spread of COVID-19.

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

COVID-19 Reminders

- For vaccination booking details visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>
- Follow your local public health/safety measures: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>
- Practice physical distancing – stay 2 metres away from others in public
- Get the facts - www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread