



March 2, 2016

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, P.C., M. P.  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers,

We wish to take this opportunity to raise with you the issue of the Central Experimental Farm (CEF) severance that was announced under the previous Federal Government's leadership of sixty acres in November 2014. As you may be aware, this planning decision is not supported by the current CEF Management Plan and was made without the input of those in that work in the facility, those that live nearby, the agricultural research community, producers and other stakeholders. In this light, we have found that the process to select the designated sixty acres to sever from the CEF is fraught with a lack of transparency and consultation and therefore call upon the Federal Government of Canada to annul the decision and enter into a new process to select the most appropriate lands for the Ottawa Hospital.

I understand that the Coalition to Protect the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site of Canada has already written to you to raise this issue to your attention. The Coalition has highlighted the historical and scientific significance of the particular fields in question and we fully support this. As agricultural producers, we have seen firsthand the benefits to improved productivity and sustainability that has arisen out of the research that has taken place at the CEF. The results have had national significance and contributed to a stronger Canadian agriculture sector. It is critical that commitments to primary research are continued at the CEF to enable us to continuously improve our productivity and produce more, with less.

The CFA would welcome the opportunity to work with your offices in this area to explore an alternate open and transparent consultation process that would maintain the integrity of the current CEF and its research capacity while finding an alternate and acceptable location for a new Ottawa Hospital facility. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Drew Black, Director, Environment and Science Policy at 613-236-3633 ext. 2328 or via email at: [Drew@Canadian-farmers.ca](mailto:Drew@Canadian-farmers.ca).

Kind regards,



Ron Bonnett  
President  
Canadian Federation of Agriculture



Don McCabe  
President  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

CC: The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, P.C., M.P., Minister of Science

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P. Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic  
Development

The Honourable Eric Hoskins, MD. Minister of Health and Long Term Care