



Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

October 17, 2012

The Honourable John MacDonell
Minister, N.S. Department of Agriculture
PO Box 2223, Halifax
Nova Scotia B3J 3C4

Honourable Minister MacDonell:

RE: Future Opportunities for Agri-Futures

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture would like to bring to your attention the concern that an effective administrative body which has been serving Nova Scotia farmers well since 1995 may soon have to wind down its operations. Agri-Futures has been administering the CAAP programs in this province in a very capable manner, however, the federal government has made the decision that future programs will be administered from a central office once Growing Forward Two (GF2) comes into effect.

Agri-Futures has provided an excellent peer review service for proposals through a Board of Directors who have a wide knowledge base of the local priority areas. It provides third party credibility to programs and has been able to keep the costs of the administrative process down below 10 % over their existing timeframe.

Agri-Futures is governed by a Board of Directors which includes expertise from the farming industry, processors, and federal and provincial departments of agriculture. This diverse board is able to look at a situation from all angles in order to come up with the best possible scenario for encouragement of a fledgling business or implementation of a new idea for an already existing operation. We, in Nova Scotia, have developed a very effective delivery model and farmers are hesitant to see this valuable asset disbanded.

We understand that GF2 is going to feature more flexibility and that provincial governments will be enabled to design and implement unique programs that they believe will help grow the industry in their province. This being the case, the NSFA would respectfully suggest that Agri-Futures could be a very effective asset to assist the province in the design and delivery of such programs.

60 Research Drive, Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2
Telephone: (902) 893-2293 • Fax: (902) 893-7063
[email: info@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:info@nsfa-fane.ca)
Our office is located in the Annapolis Building

I will close by reiterating the fact that our Federation wants to be involved in the development of the GF2 programs in this province. It is our hope that you will consult with us prior to making decisions regarding the design and implementation methods for GF2; industry is committed to being an active partner in the program delivery process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Densmore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Densmore
President

c: Rosalind Penfound, Deputy Minister
Linda MacDonald, Executive Director, Policy & Corporate Services