

**Ontario Farm Products Marketing  
Commission**

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**Commission de commercialisation des  
produits agricoles de l'Ontario**

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**VIA EMAIL**

December 21, 2017

Ms. Suzanne van Bommel, Chair  
Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers  
435 Consortium Court  
London, ON, N6E 2S8  
[suzanne@opvg.org](mailto:suzanne@opvg.org)

Dear Ms. van Bommel,

I am writing to inform you that the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission has finalized amendments to the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers' (OPVG) authorities, which are established under Regulation 440 (Vegetables for Processing – Marketing). The amendments were [filed and came into force](#) on December 21, 2017.

The final amendments have been developed following the completion of an economic analysis of the processing vegetable sector, broad consultations with industry stakeholders, and a 60 day regulatory posting. The amendments are intended to:

- Encouraging proactive communication and collaboration among value chain partners through an Industry Advisory Committee.
- Supporting regulated marketing by ensuring that the OPVG continues to be involved in establishing the way minimum prices are negotiated for crops where there are numerous processors, while providing all processors and their growers the opportunity to develop customized agreements to meet specific needs.
- Encouraging productive discussions that lead to agreements that meet the needs of processors and their growers.
- Establishing protocols to help prevent future negotiation impasses by allowing either the processor or growers to initiate conciliation and requiring that

negotiating agency members meet with growers prior to deciding to proceed to arbitration.

The amending regulation allows for some transition, to ensure that negotiations for the 2018 crop can proceed without disruption. The Commission would be pleased to present the finalized amendments to the OPVG board, and staff will follow up to arrange for this.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Clark", is centered on the page.

Jim Clark  
Chair, Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission