

Office of the Deputy Minister

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March 3, 2017

To: All OPVG Board Members  
All District Vegetable Growers' Committee Members for Districts 1, 2, and 3

I am writing to you today to confirm information that I relayed to the members of the board of directors of the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (OPVG) who attended a teleconference with me earlier today.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission (Commission) have been closely monitoring the 2017 crop negotiations between Ontario's tomato growers and processors. We were recently informed that negotiations have reached an impasse. It is apparent that the industry has reached a critical point where it appears that rational and constructive dialogue amongst stakeholders is no longer possible.

Given the threat of irreparable harm to the industry, the government of Ontario has taken immediate action by making a regulation under the *Farm Products Marketing Act*. This regulation is now in force and has the effect of terminating the terms of office of the members of OPVG holding office immediately before the regulation came into force and terminating the terms of office of the members of each District Vegetable Growers' Committee holding office immediately before the regulation came into force.

Effective immediately, Elmer Buchanan has been appointed the trustee for OPVG with full legal authority to exercise all powers of OPVG under the *Farm Products Marketing Act*. Mr. Buchanan's appointment is time limited. Later this year he will initiate the election of a new board which will assume governance of OPVG in 2018.

Mr. Buchanan is present at the OPVG office today.

This was a difficult decision to make; however, it was felt that action was needed to respond to what the government has heard from the OPVG itself, the Commission and industry stakeholders about the deteriorating state of negotiations, and the need to ensure that negotiations continue, so that contracts are in place for the 2017 processing vegetable crop.

While you no longer have a role as board members and district committee members, I appreciate that you each have an interest in ensuring conditions exist for your industry to grow and prosper. The government has every expectation that the parties will return to the negotiation table to finalize agreements for 2017 and will continue to work together to consider broader changes to the regulatory framework for the industry which

may take effect in 2018.

For any board members or committee members who may have property belonging to the local board (e.g. cell phones or laptops), I would ask that you make arrangements to return that property to the board office on Monday, March 6, 2017 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

You will be receiving further information from Mr. Buchanan in the coming days and I trust that you will provide whatever further information he may require as he assumes his role as trustee of the OPVG.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Meredith', written over a horizontal line.

Greg Meredith  
Deputy Minister

- c. Elmer Buchanan  
Jim Clark, Interim Chair, Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission



Good Things Grow in Ontario  
À bonne terre, bons produits