

For Immediate Release

Agriculture Minister, Ernie Hardeman, will devastate Ontario farm families with his recent regulatory announcement.

Dec 17, 2019 – (LONDON) Shockingly, new regulations allow for processors to choose growers they would like to negotiate with, setting the stage for a sham process where the balance of power now lies firmly in the hands of processors.

“We have spent considerable hours assessing how the recently announced regulations will impact the tomato and carrot growers but also the impact to the other commodities we represent”, stated Dave Hope, Chair of the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (OPVG). “We will need to analyze the regulation in detail to determine the depth of hurt to the sector. The largest impact is a reduction in collective bargaining power being removed from the growers’ elected representatives and handed to the processors.”

The OPVG is a marketing board regulated under the Farm Products Marketing Act and represents nearly 340 Ontario processing vegetable growers producing crops such as tomatoes, onions, sweet corn, carrots, cucumbers, green, wax & lima beans, green peas, squash and pumpkin. Farm gate sales for our processing vegetable crops in 2019 was just under \$90 million. OPVG members are family-owned and operated businesses, growing vegetable crops for Ontario food manufacturing companies.

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