



September 29, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Honourable Carney:

Dufferin County Council has been observing how the federal, provincial and municipal governments have handled the challenges of growth, tariffs and economies.

Recently, Dufferin County hosted Dr. Byan Gibson at one of its economic seminars. Dr. Gibson shared that rural Canada with 17% of the population, approximately 6 million people, generates 30% of Canada's GDP. This wealth created by the rural communities is used to support infrastructure, health care and education in our cities.

In response to the tariff issues, it seems that much attention and financial support has been shared with the automotive industry, while little attention has been given to the impacts of tariffs on the agricultural community. For example, Canada's yearly canola production is a \$48 billion industry, with \$5 billion of annual sales to China. In retaliation for the Canadian tariff on Chinese manufactured electric vehicles, China imposed 100% tariffs on Canadian canola oil and meat in March 2025, with an additional 76% on canola seed in August 2025. Only this past week has the Federal government reached out to the farmers to find a solution with new incentives for the canola industry.

Recently, the leader of Canada's opposition Pierre Poilievre, criticized the Foreign Workers program, suggesting that it needed to be cancelled. Temporary Foreign Workers are vital to many of Dufferin County's farms. The program provides the labour needed to plant and harvest crops, operate processing plants and offer other services. It is impossible to find local workers with the necessary skill set willing to provide the manual labour for many of our agricultural related activities. In previous years, Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback has visited several Dufferin area farms to discuss how respected and essential foreign workers are to farm operations.

Effective provincial policies can reduce farmland fragmentation and limit new home construction to areas within urban or settlement boundaries. Consultation should occur before many other provincial initiatives are imposed.

At the local level, traffic slowing obstacles can be hazardous to our farmers and to their equipment. Settlement areas may use traffic bollards or other calming devices that can force farmers to take lengthy detours to move equipment from field to field, impacting productivity and creating additional financial burdens. Other control measures within settlement areas such as multiple traffic tights, unreasonably low speed limits, and speed bumps add to driver frustration, pushing the traffic to the surrounding rural roads where active agricultural operations exist, increasing risk for farmers, livestock and equipment movement.

Municipal decisions that deal with planning, site alteration, storm water management, noise and weed control, can impact the agricultural industry and normal farm practices.

Urban partners may feel that agriculture is not relevant to them, however the opposite is true. Farmland protection happens within urban boundaries and urban centres should be part of the solution. The pathway to resilience in this economy is to find ways to support each other through partnerships, consultations and collaboration.

On September 25, 2025, Dufferin County Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS agriculture is a critically important industry in our community;

WHEREAS the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture has expressed concerns that policy makers are not aware of the every day issues facing the agricultural community;

WHEREAS the Federal, Provincial and municipal governments are not adequately consulting the agriculture industry when developing policies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request all levels of government increase consultation with the agricultural industry;

AND THAT presentation opportunities be given to agriculture industry representatives at conferences, such as Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), to provide a forum to share every day issues facing the industry;



AND THAT this motion be circulated to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, AMO, ROMA, OPPI and the local Dufferin municipalities.

Council urges the Federal government, Provincial government and all municipalities to take action to consult with the agricultural community immediately and regularly.

Thank you,

Michelle Dunne

Michelle Dunne
Clerk

Cc Premier Doug Ford
Minister of Agriculture, Agri-food and Rural Economic Development
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
MPP Honourable Sylvia Jones
MP Honourable Kyle Seeback
AMO
ROMA
OPPI
Dufferin Federation of Agriculture
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Dufferin Municipalities

