



## O N T A R I O F A R M E N V I R O N M E N T A L C O A L I T I O N

Ontario Federation of Agriculture (416) 485-3333 • Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (519) 837-1620  
AGCare (Agriculture Groups Concerned About Resources & the Environment) (519) 837-1326 •  
Ontario Farm Animal Council (905) 821-3880

July 13, 2001

James Van Loon  
The Walkerton Inquiry  
180 Dundas Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 1Z5

Dear James:

The Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) would like to request the opportunity to make presentations at the following two upcoming Public Hearings:

1. Source Protection - August 2, 2001
2. Regulatory and Technical Issues for Specific Sources of Contaminants; Water Quality - September 6, 2001

The presentation on Source Protection will be made by Professor John FitzGibbon, Ph.D., University of Guelph. John will elaborate on the recommendations outlined in the OFEC submission to the Walkerton Commission, entitled "Wellhead Protection Strategies: An Agricultural Perspective". The paper's recommendations are excerpted below.

- i) **Use a multiple barrier approach. This includes, but is not limited to, appropriate siting, construction, maintenance, monitoring and treatment, and retiring abandoned wells.**
- ii) **Use of Nutrient Management Plans as opposed to restrictive zoning.**
- iii) **Programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan program, which reaches many individuals and initiates action to improving farming operations, must be continued.**
- iv) **Education and continued research are key components to protecting the water supply.**

The presentation relating to contaminate sources will be made by Paul Verkley, Chair of the OFA Environment Committee and OFEC's Nutrient Management Working Group. Paul will elaborate on recommendations presented in OFEC's submission to the Walkerton Inquiry entitled "Ontario Farmers' Commitment to the Natural Environment". The recommendations in that paper are summarized below.

**OFEC recommends that both the federal and provincial levels of government recognize the importance of the EFP Program as an environmental risk management tool for the Ontario farming community and provide adequate funding for its continued development, delivery and assessment.**

**OFEC recommends that because measurable environmental improvement that can be linked directly to the EFP Program will require a considerable length of time to document, potential EFP funding agencies should intuit that a systematic approach to environmental management as well crafted as the EFP will result in environmental improvement.**

**OFEC recommends that the provincial and federal Ministries of the Environment should work with OFEC to reposition the EFP Program into a certifiable environmental management system.**

**OFEC recommends that the Government of Ontario adopt a model employed by the Government of Canada whereby public funds are entrusted to the agricultural sector for disbursement by a council of farm leaders on projects and programs that will ensure Ontario's agricultural industry will be economically and environmentally sustainable for the balance of this century, and beyond.**

**OFEC recommends that the Government of Ontario support the concept of Ontario farmers entering into a 'Contract With Consumers' whereby the farming community commits to the continuous improvement of Ontario's agricultural systems and consumers commit to cost-sharing the implementation and maintenance of those improvements, through the provision of public funds.**

If any further information regarding our presentations is required please give me a call at 416-485-3333 or 519-766-3762.

Sincerely,

David Armitage