

Supporting the Principles of Supply Management in Ottawa

On Tuesday May 5, CFO participated in the annual Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) Parliament Hill event to help brief Members of Parliament from across the country about the chicken industry and the national supply management system. The CFO delegation met with a range of Ontario parliamentarians including the Hon. Kellie Leitch, Minister of Labour (Simcoe-Grey), the Hon. Gary Goodyear, the Minister Responsible for Southern Ontario Development (Cambridge), and the Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Public Works and Government Services (Haldimand-Norfolk). Other MPs who were engaged by CFO were Harold Albrecht (Kitchener-Conestoga), Colin Carrie (Oshawa), Wladyslaw Lison (Mississauga East-Cooksville), Michael Chong (Wellington - Halton Hills), and Rick Norlock (Northumberland-Quinte West).

The CFO delegation was made up of Chair Henry Zantingh, CFC representative Murray Booy, CFC alternate Ed Benjamins and Broiler Council representative Henk Lise along with CFO staff members Michael Edmonds and Chris Horbász.

Later in the week CFO representatives also participated in a government relations strategy workshop hosted by CFC to help assess and develop ongoing strategies to ensure that policy makers and influencers are well briefed on the ongoing and growing benefits of the supply management system.

In 2015, CFO has been pursuing a strategy of engaging as many federal MPs as possible during this crucial election cycle to review CFO's consumer research on Ontarian attitudes to supply management and issues pertaining to local food, local farming and the maintenance of a public policy framework that is supportive of Canada's supply management system.

The National Differential Growth Agreement Moves to Next Stage

For several months, CFC has been developing the text of an amended Operating Agreement (OA) (Schedule B of the Federal Provincial Agreement for Chicken) that reflects a Memorandum of Understanding that all provinces signed in November 2014. This Memorandum of Understanding has been used as a guide for setting allocations since A-129, and provides differential growth to all provinces based on comparative advantage factors and a discrete supply to Ontario.

On May 6, 2015, the CFC Board approved the text of an amended OA, meeting another important milestone towards having the now approved amended Operating Agreement signed by all provincial chicken boards and their respective regulatory agencies prior to the setting of A-133 and A-134 in July.