

Board Highlights: December 5, 2024

Ontario Pork's Reception at Queen's Park

On November 19, 2024, Ontario Pork hosted its MPP Reception at Queens Park in Toronto. This year's reception was attended by over 120 guests, including 10 ministers, 42 MPPs, their staff members, Tony Millington, Conestoga Meats, Ontario Pork Board members and the Ontario Pork Leadership Training Graduates: Jayden Terpstra and Scott Nyenhuis.

Tara Terpstra, Chair of Ontario Pork spoke about the importance of the pork industry for the provincial economy and focused on four key government relations areas: the risk management program, processing capacity, emergency preparedness, and labour. Honourable Rob Flack, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane and ag critic for the NDP party, Ted Hsu, Liberal Party, MPP for Kingston and the Islands, as well as Mike Schreiner, Green Party, MPP for Guelph also delivered remarks.

Resolutions Committee

In preparation for the resolution session at the Ontario Pork AGM, the Board approved the resolutions process document, based on the recommendation from the Resolutions Committee, which outlines resolutions submission steps, procedures and timelines. The resolutions process document will be presented to presidents and secretaries of local pork producers' associations at the meeting on December 10, 2024. Beginning with the 2025 resolutions process, all resolutions will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and then debated during Policy Day. The updated policy includes a provision for time-sensitive resolutions, which the Resolution Committee may recommend to the Board for immediate debate at the AGM. Resolutions can now be submitted to the Board at any time, allowing for ongoing engagement and consideration of industry issues throughout the year.

2025 Zone Meetings

The Board of Directors reviewed the planning process for upcoming zone meetings. Elections for delegate and Board member positions in zones 3 and 4 will take place in February 2024. Additionally, an at-large Board position, representing pork producers across the province, will be up for election at the Ontario Pork Annual General Meeting on March 26, 2025.

The Board decided to hold meetings in all five zones in January-February 2025, to provide producers with opportunities to exchange information, propose new resolutions, and network. These meetings will also serve as an optional venue for local pork producers' associations to conduct their respective meetings.

To support the election process, Ontario Pork will host a meeting for presidents and secretaries of local pork producer associations to provide detailed information. Further communication will be shared with pork producers in advance of the 2025 election cycle.

Canadian Pork Council Members Fall Meeting and National Lobby Day

The Board of Directors was briefed on the recent CPC Board of Directors and the Members Fall Meetings, held on October 28 and October 30, 2024 in Ottawa. Key topics included updates on the African Swine Fever Trade Recovery Program, the PigLEARN training system, PigTRACE funding, and the China Red Meat Office. James Reesor, Ontario's representative, was elected First Vice-Chair of the CPC Board of Directors. On October 29, 2024, Tara Terpstra, Ontario Pork's Board Chair, along with Bruce Hudson (Vice-Chair), Eric Schwindt, TJ Murray, and James Reesor, participated in National Lobby Day. They engaged with multiple MPs and senators to address critical industry issues, including African swine fever, market access, trade priorities, and labour challenges.