



August 26, 2024

Emergency Management Policy and Governance Branch
Emergency Management Ontario
Treasury Board Secretariat
315 Front St. West
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8
Letter sent by email: EMOPolicy@Ontario.ca

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Ontario Pork submission on ERO number 019-8860, discussion paper on Engagement on Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act

Ontario Pork welcomes the opportunity to provide review the discussion paper on ERO number 019-8860, Engagement on Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

Ontario Pork represents the province's 1,919 pork farms and is a leader in the agriculture industry. Led by producers, Ontario Pork is committed to sustainable growth in the pork sector, delivering government representation, research investment, and industry improvements in areas including animal care and environmental sustainability, while growing the brand and reputation of producers and their product. Ontario's pork sector represents a significant part of the Canadian economy, combining - from "farm to fork" - \$1.34 billion in GDP, over 18,347 full-time jobs and \$3.51 billion in economic output.

Ontario's swine sector markets almost six million hogs annually. The health and welfare of these animals is of paramount importance to producers at all times, especially during emergencies. In reviewing the discussion paper, while there is mention of several types of disasters, there is no mention of the impact of these disasters on agriculture and the impact that the disasters would have on animals, food security, industry infrastructure, and farmer and employee mental health.

A key disaster that is missing from the discussion paper is that of foreign animal diseases. Ontario Pork has been actively involved in emergency preparedness work with the provincial government, the federal government and other stakeholders, specific to foreign animal diseases, such as African swine fever (ASF). ASF is a disease that has decimated entire herds swine herds

in some parts of the world. ASF is highly contagious for pigs and can spread rapidly through both direct and indirect contact with infected pigs or pig products, as well as contaminated farm equipment, feed, and clothing.

An ASF outbreak in Canada would result in an immediate border closure to both live animals and pork products. The loss of international markets would have a devastating impact on farm families and the economy since more than half of pork production is exported. Massive losses of pigs, as well as farmers' income and livelihood would also severely impact mental health for farmers, their families, and their employees. Timely government programs, resources, tools, and funding are essential to ensuring an orderly crises response.

While the *Animal Health Act* allows for quick, measured, and thorough actions if a hazard to animal health is identified, we believe that there needs to be coordination with the provisions in the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

In this regard, we would like to request a meeting with the appropriate staff to further discuss emergency management and the agri-food sector, specifically the potential impact on livestock.

On behalf of Ontario's pork producers, thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this consultation. We look forward to an opportunity to further discuss emergency management and livestock.

Sincerely,



Ken Ovington
General Manager