

Board Highlights: December 5, 2025

Ontario Pork's Reception at Queen's Park

On November 18, 2025, Ontario Pork welcomed more than 120 guests to its annual MPP Reception at Queen's Park in Toronto. The event brought together 12 ministers, 41 MPPs and their staff, Ontario Pork Board members, and graduates of the Ontario Pork Leadership Training Program, Emma VandenBroek and Stuart Vermeulen. Representatives from Conestoga Meat and Domingos Meats also joined the reception, helping reinforce key messages around the importance of processing capacity in the province.

Board members focused on highlighting the vital role of Ontario's pork sector in the provincial economy and the need for continued collaboration with government on processing capacity, emergency preparedness, and trade. Tara Terpstra, Chair of Ontario Pork, delivered remarks emphasizing these priorities. She was joined by the Honourable Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming–Cochrane and the NDP's agriculture critic; and Ted Hsu, MPP for Kingston and the Islands with the Ontario Liberal Party.

Several MPPs and ministers shared supportive posts about the event on social media, helping extend Ontario Pork's reach. Combined, these messages generated over 26,000 views. Ontario Pork appreciates the strong engagement from elected officials and industry partners and looks forward to continuing these important conversations in the year ahead.

Swine Health Area Regional Control (SHARC)

Cameron Farrell and Clint Lichty of Swine Health Ontario (SHO) met with the Board to discuss opportunities to increase producer participation in the Swine Health Area Regional Control (SHARC) program. SHARC is a long-standing, producer-led disease monitoring system that provides real-time information to support risk-based decisions for managing PRRS, PED, and PDCOV. SHO reported strong but plateauing voluntary enrollment and outlined efforts to enhance program value for producers and veterinary teams. They also highlighted opportunities to align SHARC with broader industry health-management strategies, including potential integration with AgManifest. Board members discussed both the benefits of SHARC and concerns raised by producers who have not yet enrolled. SHO noted they are open to program refinements that could help strengthen participation.

Board Discussion on Animal Disease Policy Direction

The Board began an exploratory discussion on whether Ontario Pork's current policies adequately address the risks of animal disease outbreaks identified in the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan. The conversation focused primarily on Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs), where Board involvement is most critical. Board members considered which disease categories require formal policy direction, whether existing policies reflect expectations during an FAD, the principles that should guide future policy and advocacy work, and the outcomes producers should be able to rely on in a disease emergency. The Board will continue work on policy development at future meetings.

Resolutions Process

The Board is implementing changes to strengthen the resolutions process, an important way producers help shape Ontario Pork's direction. Going forward, there will be a single submission deadline and a single debate at Policy Day to support a clearer, more streamlined process. The Board also remains open to receiving resolutions year-round, and producers can continue to raise time-sensitive issues at any point. The Resolutions Committee will meet in January to finalize the updated approach. The new submission deadline will be in August, with debate taking place at the Policy Day.