

## **Board Highlights: April 14-15, 2026**

### ***2026/2027 Ontario Pork Board Elections***

At the first meeting after the annual general meeting, the Board held elections for all Board positions for 2025/2026. The election results are as follows:

Tara Terpstra, Board Chair

TJ Murray, Board Vice-Chair

Board Committees:

Audit Committee: TJ Murray, Tanya Terpstra, Bruce Hudson

Resolutions Committee: Philip Van Raay, Karen Sanders

Research Committee: Cassandra Van Engelen, Jolanda Vanden Broek, Charlie Illick

The Board also appointed representatives to the following organizations:

Farm and Food Care Ontario Council: Jolanda Vanden Broek

Ontario Swine Conference: Philip Van Raay

### ***Ontario Swine Conference and Ontario Pork Annual General Meeting***

The Ontario Swine Conference took place March 24–25, 2026, at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls. The conference drew strong attendance and positive feedback, with programming covering production innovation, economics, animal health and welfare, trade, and practical farm management. Attendee surveys reflected continued interest in economic outlook, trade, and consumer trends, along with growing interest in artificial intelligence and hands-on production topics. This feedback will inform planning for the 2027 conference.

Ontario Pork held its Annual General Meeting on March 25, during the conference. Open to producers and industry participants, the AGM included updates on Ontario Pork's activities and initiatives, presentation of financial and audit reports, and an update from the Canadian Pork Council. The meeting also marked a significant milestone, the celebration of Ontario Pork's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The occasion featured a special video highlighting several former Board Chairs reflecting on the challenges and wins they experienced during their terms, a testament to the resilience and strength of Ontario's pork industry over the decades.

### ***Animal Health Canada Overview and Ontario Representation***

The Board of Directors received an overview of national foreign animal disease preparedness efforts coordinated through Animal Health Canada, including Ontario Pork's role in representing provincial interests at the national level. This representation ensures that Ontario pork producers have a voice in shaping national decisions and response frameworks, with a focus on ensuring that these approaches can be effectively implemented within Ontario's on-farm and provincial realities.

The Board also reviewed the concept of Primary Control Zones (PCZ), a key response tool being advanced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for managing African Swine Fever (ASF) and other foreign animal diseases. The discussion highlighted the importance of ASF zoning agreements, which are established in advance of a disease outbreak to define how trade can continue safely from disease-free regions.

Canada currently has zoning agreements in place with several key trading partners, including the United States, European Union, Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates, with the U.S. agreement being especially important given the integrated nature of the North American pork

market. Negotiations are ongoing with several countries, including Japan, South Korea, and Chile. Exploratory discussions have also taken place with Indonesia, Columbia, Mexico and Peru.

These efforts are essential to supporting a coordinated disease response and enabling the timely resumption of international trade in the event of an outbreak.

### ***Policy and Risk Oversight: Next Policy Framework***

The Board of Directors received an update on Ontario Pork's ongoing work related to the Next Policy Framework (NPF), the successor to the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) when it expires in March 2028. Board members discussed Ontario Pork's positions in response to federal consultations led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). The Board reaffirmed key priorities for the next framework, with a focus on strengthening processing capacity, improving emergency and animal disease preparedness, supporting technology adoption, enhancing business risk management programs, and ensuring a stable workforce.

The discussion also highlighted opportunities to improve current programming by making it more practical and accessible for producers. This includes increasing transparency around program intakes, reducing administrative burden, ensuring intake timelines better reflect real-world conditions, and addressing participation barriers such as upfront purchasing requirements. Ontario Pork will be seeking input from its members to help inform its submission to AAFC. The federal public consultation period on the NPF is open until June 30, 2026.