

Statement on Fair and Equitable Water Access for Farmers

Attribution: Ron Maynard, President of the PEI Federation of Agriculture.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The PEI Federation of Agriculture is pleased to see the Government of PEI adjust the Water Act regulations and implement recommendations from the Legislative Standing Committee, giving farmers the same water access that has been granted to other industries for more than 18 years.

A year ago, we suggested to a Legislative Standing Committee that the Island needed a supplemental irrigation strategy for food production. This work needs to be done with some urgency. We envision any such strategy must provide the water access our Island family farms need while ensuring it promotes responsible use and forward-thinking sustainable farming practices.

We thank Minister Steven Myers of the Department of Environment, Energy, and Climate Change for standing up for local farmers and advocating for fair and equitable access to water for food production. This change will help assist the future viability of our family farms.

We are supportive of a science-based approach and look forward to working with the departments of Agriculture and Land, and Environment, Energy, and Climate Change, as well as other stakeholders including watershed enhancement groups. We all have a vested interest in protecting our water resource and to do that, we must include sustainable farming practices as a part of our long-term approach for agriculture.

By working together, we can protect our water and have a thriving agricultural sector.

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About the PEI Federation of Agriculture:

The Federation of Agriculture is the province's largest, general farm organization in the province, representing more than 85 percent of Island farmers. The Federation exists to help improve the sustainability of Island farms and farm families, providing programming, education and public policy recommendations.

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