

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2020-772

Sally Akroyd Bombino
General Manager
Canadian Farm Builders Association
cfba@cfba.ca

Dear Sally Akroyd Bombino:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding concerns of the Canadian Farm Builders Association (CFBA) with the continuity of municipal building services, potential impacts on the construction of farm buildings, and CFBA's ideas about how these problems might be remedied.

As you know, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing administers the *Building Code Act, 1992* and the Building Code. The Act governs the construction, renovation, demolition and change of use of buildings. The Building Code is a regulation under the Act, which sets out technical and administrative requirements, and also addresses building permit issuance and construction inspections and the timelines for providing these services.

The Building Code and Act are enforced by municipalities and other local authorities. In the event of emergencies, such as the COVID-19 outbreak, municipalities may establish operational policies for delivering services locally and may have provisions to ensure the continuation of services in keeping with their own emergency management plans.

The list of essential businesses established under the Emergency Order (O. Reg. 82/20) was amended to lift restrictions on all construction activities. Accordingly, as of May 19, 2020, construction activities or projects and related services can commence or continue. In addition, on May 8, 2020, our government amended Ontario's Building Code to help ensure that municipalities continue to provide building services such as issuing permits and conducting inspections, enabling these essential projects, in a timely manner, even if municipal offices are closed to the public because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

I hope that these changes have helped to address some of the concerns expressed by the agricultural sector related to farm building construction.

Once again, thank you for bringing the concerns of CFBA to my attention and for helping our ministry understand the impacts of our government's response to the COVID-19 outbreak on the agricultural sector. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark".

Steve Clark
Minister