



January 25, 2022

Her Worship Pauline Rochefort
Mayor
Municipality of East Ferris
paulinerochefort17@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Rochefort:

Strengthening the agriculture and agri-food sector is critical to Canada's economic growth. In partnership, the Governments of Canada and Ontario are working to deliver the greatest benefits for farmers, food processors and Canadian families.

As part of these ongoing efforts, we would like to share with you that today we are boosting the per claim administration payment amount provided to municipalities through the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP).

We understand the important role OWDCP plays in supporting farmers by providing compensation when their livestock and/or poultry has been injured or killed by wildlife, and to beekeepers whose beehives, bee colonies and related equipment are damaged by wildlife.

Municipalities are valued partners in delivering the OWDCP, and we appreciate your commitment to administering this program. In recognition of the crucial role municipalities play, the payment amount provided to municipalities will increase to \$50 per application, from the previous \$30, for any application with an injury/kill date of February 1, 2022 onwards. This increase recognizes that municipalities' incremental costs of program delivery have increased because of changes made over the past few years to strengthen the program.

To ensure a smooth transition date, February 1, 2022, municipalities will be able to begin accessing the increased payment amount through OWDCP. This coming into force date will also ensure a smooth transition, as well as minimize any potential errors in payments or financial reporting.

This timely investment will help to sustain one of the business risk management supports that our livestock farmers count on to do the invaluable work that they do in supplying safe, high-quality food for the people of the province.

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This initiative builds on other supports extended to the province's agricultural sector to protect its progress as we move forward during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would like to recognize Mayor Kevin Holland, of the Township of Conmee, who has advocated for these improvements during meetings of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Updated program guidelines are available at www.ontario.ca/predation. Should you have any questions, please contact wildlife.damage@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Bibeau'.

Marie-Claude Bibeau
Federal Minister of Agriculture
and Agri-Food

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa M. Thompson'.

Lisa M. Thompson
Ontario Minister of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs