



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

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May 11, 2026

Sent by email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Doug Ford,

Re: Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025

At the April 27, 2026, Regular meeting, Stratford City Council heard a presentation by Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner regarding Bill 21, Protect Our Food, 2025.

At the meeting, Stratford City Council adopted the following resolution in support:

R2026-176

THAT the Council of the City of Stratford support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, Perth Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Enclosed is a copy of the resolution supported by Stratford City Council.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk
tdafoe@stratford.ca
519-271-0250 extension 5329

Cc: The Honourable Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness;
The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation, and
Parks;
Mike Shreiner, Member of Provincial Parliament for Guelph;
Bobbi Ann Brady, Member of Provincial Parliament for Haldimand-Norfolk;
Matthew Rae, Member of Provincial Parliament for Perth – Wellington;
The Ontario Federation of Agriculture;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
All Ontario municipalities.

WHEREAS Private Member's Bill 21 has been introduced into the legislature, a bill to protect Ontario's future food sovereignty; and

WHEREAS arable land is a critical finite resource; and

WHEREAS Ontario has lost 2.8 million acres of farmland in the last three decades and Ontario currently loses as much as 319 acres of farmland a day; and

WHEREAS Ontario's farmland provides food, fiber and fuel to all of Ontario and beyond; and

WHEREAS Perth County holds some of the best farmland in Ontario and is facing pressures to increase sprawl into important agricultural lands. While we need housing, sacrificing our food security can cause issues for our local economies and communities and undermine our ability to provide food for our local communities.

WHEREAS the Bill is supported by the Ontario Farmland Trust, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Christian Farmers and the National Farmers Union, reflecting broad support within the farming community on an exploratory basis; and

WHEREAS the Bill will encourage farmers to create succession plans and to reinvest in their farms;

WHEREAS a significant portion of Ontario's food supply comes from the US, where current protectionism practices are creating ambiguity and uncertainty in the food supply chain;

AND WHEREAS the City of Stratford encourages the Province to continue to use all available tools and supports, including incentives, grants, infrastructure investment, and innovation programs to promote and expand local food production, enhance on-farm viability, and strengthen Ontario's food security;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Stratford support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, Perth Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario.