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October 17, 2008

### **Open letter to all Ontario pork producers**

At a meeting on October 6, 2008, the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission released its decision on the future role of Ontario Pork. Copies of the decision are available on the Commission's website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/farmproducts/index.html> or by calling the Commission at 519 826-3407.

It is important that there is an orderly transition to the new open marketing environment. The Commission held follow-up meetings with directors and senior staff of Ontario Pork and industry stakeholders to discuss the decision. The Commission is reassured by the stated commitment of industry parties to move forward in a cooperative fashion.

During the transition period Ontario Pork will operate under its existing regulations, and continue its role in scheduling, logistics and settlement, although they no longer have mandatory oversight or approval of producer-processor contracts.

The board will also develop an implementation plan to manage the move to an open marketing system. An advisory committee made up of representatives from the hog/pork industry supply chain will provide feedback to the board as it develops its plan.

There is considerable work to be done between now and April 2009, when the new marketing system will take effect. I encourage all producers to support the board and its staff during this period of transition and to stay informed as changes are implemented over the next few months.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elmer Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B".

Elmer Buchanan  
A/Chair  
Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission