



356 Ontario Street, Suite #152, Stratford, ON N5A 7X6 T (519) 271-0811 F (519) 273-3363 E cfba@cfba.ca

## ***“DO NOT FIX WHAT IS NOT BROKE”***

### **The CFBA SUPPORTS THE HORSE RACING INDUSTRY**

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The Canadian Farm Builders Association supports the continued partnership arrangements between the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission and the Race Tracks and the Horse racing industry in Ontario..

All three levels of government realize substantial revenues from horse racing and breeding industry expenditures. This revenue has increased by 27% in the last decade.

Federal Revenue: \$382.7 million

Provincial Revenue: \$261 million (exclusive of slot machine profits)

Local governments: \$138 million (paid to host municipalities where slots are located)

An estimated 60,000 jobs per year are attributed to the horse racing and breeding industry.

A total \$1.5 billion in wages and salaries in Ontario are sustained annually by total expenditures of the Ontario horse racing and breeding industry.

The horse racing and breeding industry has a solid base in the rural agricultural economy, but also augments and diversifies the tourism entertainment and export economic base in Ontario.

The horse racing and breeding industry is the second largest sub-sector of the agricultural economy, exceeding the contributions of wheat, eggs, poultry and hogs in 2010.

Direct and indirect investment stimulates local economies with demand for products and services in rural Ontario provided by veterinarians, blacksmiths, hay and grain supplies, transportation workers and harness and saddle makers.

Recent comments from the Ontario Minister of Finance as a result of the Drummond Report on the economy suggested that the Province may review the OLG and Racetracks partnership arrangements.

The CFBA and its members, believe it is vitally important that the immense benefits of the present partnership with the horse racing industry continues. There is no reason to “fix what is not broke”.

The facts speak for themselves. Everyone benefits from the present agreement. There is not reason to review or change the present program. The local communities have increased revenues, the provincial coffers have more revenues, the employment of workers in the horse racing industry provides 60,000 good jobs. The horse racing industry is critical to the economic stability of rural Ontario.

We want the Minister of Finance, Mr. Dwight Duncan, and the Premier of Ontario, Mr. Dalton McGuinty to know of our members strong opposition to tampering with, or destroying the agreement between the OLG and the horse racing industry in Ontario.

We hope that anyone reading this will add their voice to our concerns and contact their MPP, and Mr. Dwight Duncan,

Gary Van Bolderen  
President  
Canadian Farm Builders Association

[dduncan.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:dduncan.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

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