

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales**

Bureau du ministre

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January 22, 2020

Sonya Watson
CAO
Municipality of Brockton
swatson@brockton.ca

Dear Ms. Watson:

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) is seeking input on a proposal to streamline Drainage Act approval processes that would address common stakeholder concerns about the act while maintaining our province's high environmental standards. This is part of our government's broader initiative to reduce regulatory burden in consultation with the farm and agri-food sector while preserving rules that keep Ontarians safe and healthy.

The Drainage Act Discussion Paper is posted on the province's Environmental Registry at ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1187. It describes some of the proposed changes which would reduce costs and project delays for farmers and other rural landowners and municipalities. The paper also poses questions for your feedback.

OMAFRA will be hosting webinars for key stakeholders who play an important role in the Drainage Act. The webinars are scheduled for:

January 31st	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Municipalities
January 31st	1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Conservation Authorities
February 7th	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Drainage Industry
February 7th	1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	General Farm Organizations

To register, please contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre (AICC) by email to ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca or call 1-877-424-1300. Although the webinars are targeted to specific audiences, you are very welcome to enroll at a time or date that better suits your schedule.

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Printed copies of the French Discussion Paper are also available from the AICC on request.

Our Ministry is committed to relieving the red tape burden that will ensure drainage continues to deliver critical economic and environmental benefits that will help rural communities, agricultural landowners and drainage contractors save money and/or time. We are confident the proposed changes will assist in making this a reality.

I look forward to your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Hardeman', with a large, stylized initial 'E'.

Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs