

YOU'RE INVITED TO A TOWN HALL IN MADOC!

Let's Talk Rural Sustainability with MP Mike Bossio

Member of Parliament for Hastings—Lennox and Addington



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How do we build long-term, sustainable rural communities?

How do we support our aging rural population?

How do we reverse rural population drain?

How do we support rural innovation and economic development?

How do we adapt to the impacts of climate change in rural communities?

What is the federal government doing to support rural communities?

**"Building long-term, sustainable rural communities is at the heart of all my
work as your Member of Parliament"**

– Mike Bossio

I will be on hand to share information about the work our government is doing to support rural communities like ours, and to hear from you about how we can further support our rural communities.

RURAL SUSTAINABILITY TOWN HALL

WHEN: 10:00am to 11:30am, Saturday, June 1st, 2019

WHERE: Centre Hastings Secondary School
129 Elgin Street, Madoc

Canada's Support for Farmers

Agriculture is strong in Hastings—Lennox and Addington, and a key driver of rural sustainability, supporting population retention, tourism, and other small businesses. The most recent census data shows that dairy sector is strong in both counties of the riding, with farm cash receipts of \$20.35 million in Hastings County and \$16.34 million in L&A County. From there, beef operations come a close second in Hastings County at \$17.22 million, and soybeans second in L&A County with \$9.7 million. Since these funds are spent locally, they are key economic drivers of our small businesses and rural communities.

The dairy sector in Hastings—Lennox and Addington alone supports over 1,400 full time jobs and contributes over \$116 million in economic activity to Canada's GDP. By ensuring that dairy farmers get a fair price for their healthy and well-regulated product, we are supporting rural middle class jobs and rural community sustainability, since having good jobs in rural areas keeps future generations from moving into the cities.

From providing up to \$3.9 billion in support for supply-managed farmers to protect the value of their investments, to introducing a Food Policy for Canada that sets out a coordinated and collaborative approach to addressing food-related issues, Budget 2019 would ensure that the country's agricultural sector will continue to be the pride of rural Canada that it has always been.

The recent Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade deal also means Canadian pork exports to Japan are projected to increase by 36.2 per cent and Canadian beef exports by 94.5 per cent, which are new opportunities for local farmers. Exports in the sector are expected to go up by well over a third. The CPTPP forms one of the largest trading blocs in the world, representing 13.5 per cent of global GDP, providing preferential market access for Canadian beef, pork, grains and oilseeds, pulses, maple syrup, processed foods, wines and spirits in the Asia-Pacific region.

Here's what local farmers said after a recent roundtable in Napanee with MP Mike Bossio and Canada's Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau:

"I am happy that the government is looking for input from our local producers and that time is being taken to determine where our thoughts are on the issues that matter to us, along with where we think the government should be focusing. This roundtable was a positive experience, and we are encouraged by the government actively responding to our concerns in this industry." – **Kara Enright, Beef Producer, Tweed**

"It was nice to have Minister Bibeau here in Napanee, and it is encouraging to know that people in Ottawa are listening and interested in what local farmers have to say." – **Ivan MacKinnon, MacKinnon Brothers Brewery, Bath**

"As Canadians, it's nice to know that our government is listening. It's nice that the Minister took the time to sit down with us. This government is putting a real push on innovation – and that is wonderful. But what I got out of this, however, is that tradition is valued as well. The maintaining and respecting of tradition, which is why people are getting into agriculture, and why family farms continue to thrive, is thanks to that sense of tradition." – **Jacob Murray, Topsy Farms, Amherst Island**

"The message that stood out for me was that rural economies all across our country are considered important, and that our government is willing to do something about it. Some of these programs that are rolling out have specific impacts on rural economies. The other positive message that came about is that, between all sectors in agriculture, there is a willingness to invest in these rural communities. To reach past the family farm, to include the entire rural economy, that's where the sustainability peace comes in. Having a long term vision on agriculture from the federal government goes directly to supporting that." – **Mike Walhout, Dairy Farmer, Amherst Island**

MP Mike Bossio's Response to Doug Ford on Farmers

When Doug Ford says he's the Premier "For the People", he means for the people who can afford it. His government is based on "cuts, cuts, cuts". In fact, in his recent budget, Ford cut over \$280 million from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. Farmers across Ontario are worried about the Ford government's attempt to take farmers' land away from them and give it to developers. This does not sound like a Premier who is for the people. Doug Ford is only worried about pleasing his wealthy friends, while regular Ontarians are left behind.

Now Doug Ford is not telling the truth to Ontarians by saying our price on pollution will hurt Ontario farmers. Canadian farmers are part of the climate change solution, and our plan reflects the realities of Canada's agricultural industry. **Both gasoline and diesel fuels for on-farm use are exempted under our plan. We also provided an additional 10% increase to our Climate Action Incentive amount for people who live in small and rural communities**, in recognition of their increased energy needs and reduced access to energy-efficient transportation options. This means a family of four in rural Ontario will receive \$337 back this year.

Our government strongly supports farmers and the agricultural industry. In Budget 2019, we introduced a Food Policy for Canada that ensures Canadians have access to healthy, affordable, and locally produced food. We know the important place farmers have in our communities and we have always fought to support them. This means protecting their lands from climate change while opening access to new international and local markets. We have come out strongly to support supply management, investing billions to support those farmers, as well as introduced an immigration pilot to give full-time, non-seasonal agricultural workers a pathway to residency.

Andrew Scheer and Doug Ford do not have farmers' best interests at heart. Our government will continue to fight for all Ontarians, not just the wealthy few. We will not take any lessons from Doug Ford on how best to support our agricultural industry.