

March 2, 2022

Dear Minister Thompson,

Canadian Organic Growers envisions a regenerative and resilient organic food and farming system across Canada. We work for the impacts of restoring biodiversity, increasing local food access, economic stimulation and Canadian food sovereignty.

The time to work with nature, with agriculture, for the planet, for ourselves is now. COG members believe the future of food depends on how we treat the soil under our feet.

Land that has a century-long history of farming, (so a history of primarily organic production) education and agritourism at the Kemptville Agricultural school, is threatened with destruction.

We urge you to stop the transfer of prime agricultural land out of production to the Solicitor General and begin the process of meaningful consultation with stakeholders, with the goal of preserving the site as an agricultural resource and enduring symbol of the rich agricultural history of Kemptville for generations.

COG members in Ontario support in principle the implementation of the 2014 report by former federal Minister of Agriculture Lyle Vanclief commissioned by the provincial government, which recommended the property be preserved and transferred to the municipality.

To ensure resilient local agriculture, land with quality soil, especially heritage sites such as the Kemptville AG School site, must be preserved. The serviceable farm and heritage buildings on the site must not be destroyed but continue to be educational resources, now needed more than ever!.

Non arable land could be made available for whatever construction is required, preserving the valuable soil and the immediate area's biodiversity.

On Behalf of our members in Ontario and across Canada,

Janine G. Gibson
Executive Secretary
Canadian Organic Growers