

ENGAGING WITH YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE

Presenter: Beth Meszaros

District 4



District4secretarytreasurer@gmail.com

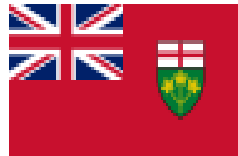
Home fair- Orono Agricultural Society

THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA

1. FEDERAL



2. PROVINCIAL



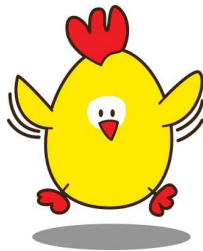
3. MUNICIPAL/REGIONAL

JURISDICTIONS AND MINISTRIES

- **The FEDERAL** level of government deals with areas of law listed in the *Constitution Act, 1867* and that generally affect the whole country.
-national affairs, world trade, defence, communication
- **The PROVINCIAL government** is responsible for areas listed in the *Constitution Act, 1867*, such as education, health care, some natural resources, and road regulations. Sometimes they share responsibility with the **federal government**.
- **The MUNICIPAL** the level of government that is usually based in a city, town or district (a *municipality*). Municipal governments are responsible for areas such as libraries, parks, community water systems, local police, roadways and parking. They receive authority for these areas from the provincial governments.

TWO CHALLENGES

- **Livestock Traceability** and how the regulations proposed by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) affects agricultural societies
- To tell your **Agricultural Society's Story**



West Niagara
youngest fair
in Ontario



Williamstown
fair 208 yrs
oldest fair in
Canada

LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY

- Safety for volunteers, animal, public
- Liability- for society
- Reporting errors due to inexperience
- Expense- cost of tags, tagger, volunteer time
- Recommendations

Do not declare your grounds a tagging site

Publish your Premise Identification Number (PIN)

Add a column for animal tag numbers

<https://www.ontarioagsocieties.com/member-services/livestock-traceability>



TELL YOUR SOCIETY'S STORY

- ✓ All of us have a unique story
- ✓ It could be the age of your fair
- ✓ Your Society's strengths and struggles
- ✓ Because some of them have never been to an Agricultural fair before
- ✓ Share, share, share



Blackstock Fair 2015

<https://youtu.be/s9fJyITWH8I>

MAKE YOUR DECISION

- Is Livestock Traceability and the sharing of my Agricultural Society's stories important to me?
- What is the best way for your society to organize and strategize with your Political Representative
 - letter
 - face to face meeting
 - email
 - Telephone
 - All of the above

BUILD YOUR TEAM

- Possible Team Members

District Executive

Members of Agricultural Society

Members of Livestock Associations

Farmers and Exhibitors



- Education Is Key

Yourself and Your Team

Minister of Parliament- Federal

Minister of Provincial Parliament

Municipal Council

Media



TALENTS ON YOUR TEAM

- Researchers
- Speech writers
- Editors
- Organizers
- Communicators who speak

Clearly
Concisely
Factually



TIME IS PRECIOUS



- **Respect:** Your Team's time
- **Respect:** Your Representatives' time
- Create a timeline and keep it up to date
- Keep meetings on track
- Create and follow an agenda
- Start on time and finish promptly
- Try to keep meetings to no longer than 1 hour

LETTER TIPS



- No longer than a page
- Be courteous
- Make sure spelling and grammar are correct
- Stick to the point and make your point clear
- Request a response or say you will be in touch
- If you do not receive a timely response follow up yourself

REMEMBER TO PACK YOUR



FRONTLINE PERSON

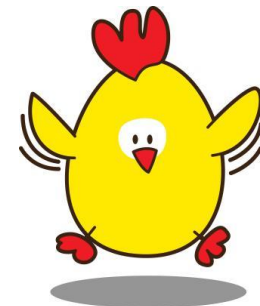
- One Frontline person for all levels of Government
- Be willing to bend – to your Representatives' time
- Take notes –date, time, keep track of who you spoke with
- Make sure you tell them when you expect a response by or when you will next contact them

AT THE MEETING WITH YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE

- Come prepared with an agenda
- Meet in a neutral place
- Do not go alone preferably 3 people
- Take notes
- Be polite, appreciative, observant and attentive
- Finish with a recap of who is responsible to do what
- End with Thank you and a hand shake

SAMPLE AGENDA

- Introductions and who we represent (keep this short)
- The issue- concern
- Discussion
- If you have a solution make it known
- Conclusion-Follow up



(A) WHAT DISTRICT 4 DID BEFORE THE MEETING

- We sent letters to all MP's with ridings in our District
- Our Frontline person contacted all MP's in our District and set up meetings
- Informed our members of these meetings and invited them to attend
- Prepared a package for each of the MP's about our District and the Agricultural Societies in their riding

(B) WHAT DISTRICT 4 DID AT THE MEETING

- A time of sharing information with our MP's and our members surrounding concerns pertaining to proposed regulations of Livestock Traceability
- A time to educate our MP about the ramifications of these regulations
- Through the discussion a solution was formulated.
- Followed up with suggestions

THE SOLUTION

The owners of the animals visiting the fair should be responsible for the appropriate tags used!



ENGAGING WITH YOUR FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

- Use the Frontline person practice
- You will deal with a Parliamentary assistant to set up meetings etc.
- Try to build a connection with one person in the Representative's office

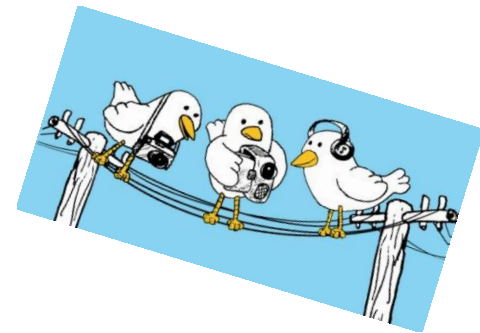


ENGAGING WITH YOUR MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVE

- Closest to persons most involved
- Come with a prepared presentation
- 5 major bullet points
- Politicians are required to speak in question form
- Always have some one from your group stay to the end of the meeting

WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

- Best friend or worst enemy
- Chose a Media spokesperson for your group
- Everyone needs to pass along the same talking point
- Do not speak to them before you are really ready
- Make them wait for a written report from you
- Remember everything is subject to interpretation by those reading the article
- Once in print very hard to retract
- Silence is okay



REMEMBER TO PREPARE YOURSELF

- For an emotional rollercoaster
- Leave room in your heart for disappointment
- Bend your thoughts and opinions
- To be uncomfortable at times
- Grow and evolve
- Expect miracles
- Celebrate your successes



Norwood celebrated 150 years in 2019

THE TWO CHALLENGES

- I challenge you to share your Society's Stories while weaving in the issue of Livestock Traceability.
- I challenge you to share your hopes and dreams for your Agricultural Society. Just as those who created these Societies did for the betterment of our communities.



CREDITS

- **DISTRICT 4 EXECUTIVE**
 - ❖ Provincial Director Zachery Prescott
 - ❖ District Director Margaret Taylor-Sevier
 - ❖ District Director Andrew Icton
 - ❖ District Director Barry Van Camp
 - ❖ Past Director Medda Burnett
 - ❖ **President OAAS** Doug Yeo
 - ❖ **Convention Coordinator** Kathryn Lambert
 - ❖ **Technical Advisor** Andrea Meszaros
 - ❖ **Videographer** Bruce Sargent Farmboy Productions

“TEAMWORK MAKES A SOCIETY STRONG”



Lily named Beth Meszaros
July 2018