



Eric Melillo
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Riding of Kenora

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House of Commons

April 20, 2021

Mr. Ben Feagin Jr.
AgriTech North
249 Second St.
Dryden, ON P8N 2V3

Dear Mr. Feagin,

I appreciated your recent briefing about a proposed collaboration between AgriTech North and Domtar to establish a greenhouse and research centre, integrated with the old Domtar mill site in the Dryden area.

This project will offset emissions from Domtar facilities while providing fresh produce to the local community.

As a northern Ontario MP and Conservative Shadow Minister for Northern Affairs, food security is a top priority for me. The threat of climate change is also always top-of-mind, as my constituents in remote communities struggle with the effects of environmental changes. Work must be done to protect our residents from the worst consequences of climate change, and I'm glad to see science and industry in our region are leading the fight.

This project could be a win on both fronts - and hopefully a model for similar initiatives, perhaps in remote communities where the need is especially dire.

I was also pleased to hear that the project will create approximately 100 full-time jobs, as well as additional indirect employment down the chain.

This project has my full support.

Sincerely,

Eric Melillo
Member of Parliament for Kenora



Administration Department
City of Dryden
30 Van Horne Avenue
Dryden, ON P8N 2A7

March 30, 2021

RE: AgriTech North

Dear Ben,

The City of Dryden is excited with the proposal and the potential opportunity your development could bring to our community and the surrounding region.

The development of a year-round agricultural facility and greenhouse operation has many benefits regarding the City of Dryden's community sustainability efforts and strikes a chord with many of our strategic planning documents (2020 Community Strategic Plan, 2020 Community Improvement Plan, 2021 Dryden Regional Airport Strategic Plan and 2015 Economic Development Strategic Plan) and the ongoing development of our Community Safety and Well-Being plan.

AgriTech North's commitment to the inclusion of educational institutions and research, innovation and development creates new and exciting jobs in our community that currently do not exist. Additionally, AgriTech's desire to create these opportunities for the local Indigenous labour market not only supports those individuals who are employed by AgriTech North but support many organizations and programming within our community. Furthermore, synergies with healthcare providers, existing local educational institutions and local producers, retailers and restaurants can be further explored to provide fresh produce to our community and those who need it most.

Recognizing the long-term and significant impact such a facility would have on our community, we hope that this opportunity receives the financial support it deserves from the Provincial and Federal Governments, allowing AgriTech North to proceed towards development.

As discussed, the City of Dryden has adequate available land that is zoned appropriately for this development and is willing to work with you towards acquiring it, pending sufficient financial support.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Nesbitt
CAO, City of Dryden





101-B Duke Street, Dryden, ON P8N 1G4
Tel: (807) 223-2622 Fax: (807) 223-2626
Email: chamber@drytel.net
Website: www.drydenchamber.ca

Benjamin Feagin Jr., MSc
CEO, AgriTech North

Dear Benjamin,

The Dryden District Chamber of Commerce is aware of your proposed agricultural technology greenhouse and research center currently being considered in Dryden, ON. We understand that you are currently in the business planning and fundraising stage and you are seeking letters of support from local businesses and organizations.

As the manager of the Chamber, I have read your business proposal and presented it to our Board of Directors for review. Our Chamber Directors agree that the development of diverse and sustainable commercial industries in Northwestern Ontario is needed. Should this initiative be approved and funded, the Dryden District Chamber of Commerce would certainly support having this exciting project in our community.

If you have any further questions, feel free to reach out.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N. Marcinkowski".

Natalie Marcinkowski
Manager, Dryden District Chamber of Commerce



Domtar Inc.
1 Duke Street, P.O. Box 4004
Dryden, Ontario Canada P8N 3J7
T (807) 223-2323

Dryden, May 12th, 2021

Mr. Ben Feagin Jr.
AgriTech North
249 Second St.
Dryden, ON
P8N 2V3

Dear Mr. Feagin:

Subject: AgriTech Greenhouse Project

Domtar Inc. ("Domtar") and the management of the Domtar Dryden Mill (the "Mill") are writing to you to express our support for your project whereby AgriTech North would work to establish a greenhouse and research centre, and would like to be able to do so at one of the buildings owned by and located adjacent to the Mill.

Based on your proposal, Domtar can imagine how this project could benefit the Mill, its employees and the community at large, and is in keeping with its commitment to sustainability, preservation of the environment and good corporate citizenship, would be prepared to work together with you and AgriTech for a mutually beneficial business relationship.

Domtar looks forward to working with you on this project once you have obtained sufficient financial support and have made progress on your proposal.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marie G.'.

Marie Cyr

General Manager



To Whom It May Concern,

ZipGrow Inc. is a Canadian based international leader in indoor, vertical farming technology. ZipGrow Inc. designs, manufactures, and sells commercial, hobby, and educational sustainable hydroponic equipment throughout North America and the world. ZipGrow Inc. is a rapidly growing company with a focus on innovation and R&D.

Our flagship product, the ZipGrow™ Tower, is a core component of many of the systems used by today's most innovative farmers, from indoor hydroponic warehouse farms, to vertical aquaponic greenhouses, and high-density container farms.

In a leafy green market dominated by California and Mexico, ZipGrow™ technology allows farmers to compete in the local market with the ability to grow 365 days a year. This technology works to address the barrier of entry that exists with the high cost of farm land and allows new farmers the chance to enter the sector and scale up using existing buildings or rented properties.

As well as holding the exclusive rights to the patented ZipGrow™ technology, ZipGrow Inc. is also an experimental research company, focusing on innovative developments within the agri-tech industry. Research findings are shared with ZipFarm™ growers as they are developed.

ZipGrow Inc. has ZipFarm™ customers located throughout the world, including in North America, South America, Europe, and the Middle East. ZipFarm™ clients have ongoing access to our Master Growers, who are graduates from some of North America's top Universities. Clients have the ability to visit our research farm in Ontario, Canada, for in person training, as well ongoing virtual training and guidance through video conferencing and additional online resources.

ZipGrow Inc. is committed to supporting the ongoing development of sustainable agriculture internationally.

Yours sincerely

Eric Lang
President



NORTHWEST BEEF

Raised right... here

Date May 1, 2021

To whom it may concern:

The Northwest Beef Co-op is a relatively new initiative that grew out of the expressed interest by beef producers to develop a brand to help cow-calf operators access markets in the area, fetch a premium for their product, and help local abattoirs with financial sustainability. The Northwest Beef Branding Project will market northwest raised beef in the region as a uniquely local product.

There is considerable opportunity in Northwestern Ontario to grow herd sizes and supply more beef to the local market. In fact, demand for local beef continues to grow and local farmers are supplying less than 1% of that market. Our Co-op of local farmers has worked hard to create build and market our own brand to our local market. And the market has responded to our product that is 100% local, however as we have grown we have found it difficult to secure larger contracts with various different organization. This stems from the simple issue that we are a stand alone product, as we only market beef. In 2020 we were asked by some First Nation groups if we could source other products to complete a healthy food box program for there community members. Northwest Beef was unable to find a producer of vegetables that could match our scale, there was no group of producers that could provide a product at the volume required to match the demand. The second problem was we couldn't find a partner that could provide product all year around as Northwest Beef can.

Northwest Beef is very excited about the partnership we have started to develop with AgriTech North. Agritech is the partner that Northwest Beef has been waiting for, a partner that can match our scale and our year round production. Northwestern Ontario is in dire need of a producer like Agritech that can produce a healthy food item year round for the people of Northwestern Ontario.

Northwest Beef commits to working with AgriTech North throughout their development to ensure that produce generated from the facility is suitable to fulfil additional contracts reliant on produce and beef. A partnership between Northwest Beef and Agritech would allow use to get these contracts that we were otherwise unable to fulfil, many of the contracts were in excess of \$50,000 dollars.

On behalf of the Northwest Beef Co-op, I would like to express our sincere support for the Agritech North project.

Sincerely,

Northwest Beef

Brent Cadeau

President



Benjamin Feagin <ceo@agritech-north.ca>

Maltese Grocery

2 messages

Maltese Grocery <maltese@tbaytel.net>
To: ceo@agritech-north.ca

Thu, May 13, 2021 at 9:25 AM

Hi Ben

The idea and concept of a local sustainable green house is fantastic.

The push for local is huge in our community.

I am very interested.

Obviously it has to be competitive in price.

The packaging must be food grade also if you happen to find package that is compostable, that would be a great idea.

I am interested in fresh herbs in particular basil and rosemary year round.

Mushroom may be a great idea for you.

Actually the mushrooms we sell year round are grown in Manitoba.

We can talk to about other products going forward,

Basically if you GROW IT I WILL SELL IT!

When you move forward let me know.

Looking forward to seeing your products on my shelves.

Sincerely and respectfully

Lisa Maltese

Maltese Grocery

(807) 344-5911

5/13/2021

Donald Leroy Bullock Mail - Maltese Grocery

[301 Pearl Street](#)

[Thunder Bay, Ontario](#)

[P7B 1E7](#)

www.maltesegrocery.ca

Benjamin Feagin <ceo@agritech-north.ca>
To: Maltese Grocery <maltese@tbaytel.net>

Thu, May 13, 2021 at 9:56 AM

Thank you!

I know you're busy, I'll PDF your email for now!

-Benjamin

[Quoted text hidden]

Nishinabe Aski Development Fund
Orion Building
100 Little Lake Road, Suite 101
Fort William First Nation, ON
P7J 0L2

RE: Letter of Support for AgriTech North

I am writing this letter in support of AgriTech North. AgriTech, owned by Benjamin Feagin Jr., is a new project in Northwestern Ontario that would like to produce fresh produce in the Dryden/Sioux Lookout area and expand into the Northern First Nations. The Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre acknowledges the need for local year-round produce in Northern Ontario, and wishes to support AgriTech North in establishing capacity so that we can improve the health of our Northern Ontario residents by improving access to fresh food and reducing cost of the fresh produce.

Further, there is a need in our region for agricultural education facility. We support this initiative as we see a need for Anishinaabe people to learn about growing fresh produce, with the vision of decreasing food insecurity in the regional and establishing healthier families and communities. The Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win is committed to providing health care that is holistic and based on the Medicine Wheel approach to healing. A big component to holistic healing is education. Mr. Feagin proposes to educate people about aeroponics and provide a research facility for young students.

Additionally, our Health Centre is the only hospital in Canada that has special legislation to serve uninspected wild meats, game and berries to patients and clients. Miichim (traditional food) is an important part of the daily lives of Anishinaabe people and is an important link between health, culture and identity. Traditional food can aid in healing by creating a comfortable environment for patients while they are receiving care in our hospital or our long term care facility. The Miichim program can be enhanced by the availability of fresh foods produced right in our community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (807) 737-6561. Miigwech.

Yours truly,

Kathy Loon, Anishinaabe Dagwi'iwin
Executive Lead for Indigenous Collaboration and Relations



Letter of Support

To Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF),

Parrs Jars is delighted at the prospect of having a stable, year round growing venture to supply our food service operation. Parrs Jars acknowledges a dire need for locally-grown year-round produce in Northern Ontario, and wishes to support AgriTech North in establishing this capability.

There is currently no other source of locally-grown year-round produce in Northern Ontario. Parr's Jars currently resorts to growing their own herbs, lettuces, dark leafy greens and microgreens in our commercial facility, to ensure we are able to continue operating year-round despite a lack of locally-grown crops year-round in Northern Ontario.

Parrs Jars would be interested in subcontracting the crop production to AgriTech North so it can be done at scale, instead of continuously maintaining our current less-than-optimal system, which takes away from our ability to focus on scaling up our core business of food preparation and distribution.

Parrs Jars is interested in purchasing locally-grown produce from AgriTech North on a sole-source contract basis for baby tomatoes, heritage tomatoes, field/english cucumbers, pickling cucumbers, squash varieties, spinach, romaine lettuce, mixed lettuce, dark leafy and asian greens, kale, sweet potatoes, bell peppers, portabelo mushrooms, cauliflower, garlic, ginger, variety of onions, napa cabbage, parsley, cilantro, rosemary and oregano if AgriTech North grows them year-round, instead of current providers or our own production.

We are looking to purchase on a weekly basis, year round--averaging 100 heads of lettuce per week, 100 heads of dark leafy greens, 60lbs each of tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, sweet potatoes, onions, and the like along with 5 lbs of each herb.

Parrs Jars and it's members are fully committed to achieving a locally sourced diet year round and are willing to pay a premium for the opportunity to do so. This market understands that the current food system has many disadvantages for our health and the economy—increased prevalence of foodborne illness, significant economic leakage and detrimental food transportation to name a few. A commitment to a localised and sustainable food supply is top priority at Parrs Jars.

We are overjoyed to have the opportunity for a local production centre in Dryden, Ontario to benefit our community and economy in the times to come.

Bobbie Parr
Owner/Operator Parrs Jars



To: AgriTech North

From: Todd Nadon, Owner

Date: May 18, 2021

Subject: Letter of Support

As part of a growing trend to provide equal access to fresh fruits and vegetables for all Canadians, Fresh Market Foods supports the initiatives of AgriTech North to build and operate a growing facility in the community of Dryden. In building a partnership we are hoping to accomplish the following:

1. Provide products that have a greater shelf life, by having our produce grown in closer proximity we can extend the sell time significantly because it no longer needs to be transported over long distances.
2. More consistency for availability and pricing:
 - i. There would be more availability of these products because we no longer would be dependent on external factors of trucking delays, incremental weather for producers, and market demands of other sellers.
 - ii. Produce prices fluctuate weekly, and by supplier causing uncertainty for customers, this initiative should help us create a pricing system that is more predictable and has less variations.
3. Fresh Market Foods is willing to share volume information and pricing strategy with the various partners on this project to ensure that it can create realistic goals in terms of operating efficiencies and costs, and that it can reasonably measure the results of those initiatives.
4. Our company has been working on several initiatives that provide high quality, low cost foods to our northern partners. One of those initiatives is a rebate program on healthy food purchases like fresh produce, building partnerships like this one is essential in helping to create food security in remote communities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our goals and potential opportunities in relation to what this initiative has to offer. We look forward to working with AgriTech North in realizing the synergies we have between our operations.



Kevin Belluz
Belluz Farms and Superior Seasons Farmer's Market
752 Candy Mountain Dr., Slate River, ON, P7J 0C2
807-475-5181

To whom it may concern,

Superior Seasons acknowledges a need for locally-grown year-round produce in Northern Ontario, and wishes to support AgriTech North in establishing this capability so that Superior Seasons can expand into additional markets requiring year-round produce, which are unavailable currently due to the inability of some markets to deal with current seasonal offerings (IE: restaurants, hospitals, schools, etc.).

There is currently no other source of locally-grown year-round produce in Northern Ontario.

Superior Seasons commits to working with AgriTech North throughout their development to ensure that produce generated from the facility is complimentary to existing production.

Superior Seasons is interested in purchasing locally-grown produce from AgriTech North on a sole-source contract basis AgriTech North grows them year-round and meets quality and sustainability requirements.

The market for the produce exists and is needed in our communities, and that the price for locally grown produce can command a higher than imports when available year-round in high quality.

Sincerely,
Kevin Belluz, Owner