



January 4, 2023

Warden Ed Ketchabaw
450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas,
ON N5R 5V1

Dear Warden Ketchabaw,

RE: Elgin County Farm Assessments and Tax Burden

On behalf of Elgin Federation of Agriculture (EFA) I wish to follow up on our letter dated February, 2021 to the County of Elgin regarding Farm Assessments and Tax Burden.

Every four years the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) releases property assessment updates for all properties in Ontario. During the previous assessment cycle, farmers in Elgin county saw farmland taxable assessments increase by over 68%. This is in addition to very significant increases in the 2012 reassessment cycle.

As a result, the tax burden of farmers in Elgin county has been increasing every year since 2012. The one exception was in 2019 when Elgin County Council voted to reduce the farm tax ratio from 0.25 to 0.23. I want to thank you and the members of Elgin county council for acting on this important issue. The past three years (2019 – 2021) have been very difficult for Ontario farmers as they navigated new policies, rules, and ways of doing business never before experienced. The support shown by council is greatly appreciated by farm families in Elgin county.

As the Premier has directed MPAC not to release the 2016-2020 reassessment notices in 2021 and again for the 2022 Property Tax year, (and now perhaps also 2024), **the EFA would ask that you continue to maintain the Farm Class Tax rate at 0.23 per cent.**

We welcome the opportunity to speak with any members of county council on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MSchneider". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Schneider

President, Elgin Federation of Agriculture