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national farmers union

In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NFU SEEKS INPUT FROM FARMERS ON PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S
PROPOSAL FOR FARM ORGANIZATION FEE HIKE**

The National Farmers Union (NFU) in Ontario is encouraging farmers to make their views known on a proposed fee hike for Farm Business Registration (FBR) memberships in general farm organizations. The NFU is one of three accredited GFOs, including the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO).

The Ontario government seeks to raise FBR membership fees from \$150 to \$195 annually. The government posted the proposed change on October 19, and farmers have until November 2 to contact the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

In a statement posted on the NFU website, www.nfuontario.ca/content/news, the NFU Ontario Regional Council stated:

“The NFU has consistently expressed concerns about increasing farmers’ costs at a time when so many farmers are struggling. While we understand the issue of cost increases and our costs as an organization have increased, our basic concern has always been the financial well-being of family farmers. Because of this situation, the NFU has resisted the call by Ontario’s other two general farm organization for a fee increase for the last two years.

However, it looks like the government is willing to move ahead over our objections.

We encourage all farmers to express your views about a fee increase to the government during the short consultation period. The time for farmers to comment was limited to a few weeks. The government posted the proposed fee increase on its registry on October 19th with a deadline of November 2nd.

You can find out more, and also post your comments to OMAFRA, at:
<http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=2162&language=en>

Or you can fax your comments to OMAFRA at 519-826-3170 Attention: Barry Sinclair.

You can also write letters to the editor of your local paper or Ontario's farm papers.

Whatever your thoughts, please let the NFU know what you think as well by emailing coordinator@nfuontario.ca or faxing us at 519-353-4036. We need to hear from you.”

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