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Petition P-7

Closure of Kemptville and Alfred campuses (Sessional Paper No. P-7) Mr. McDonnell (July 7, 2014 and July 15, 2014); Mr. Clark (July 14, 2014); Mr. Walker (July 14, 2014)

Answer:

As agriculture minister, I understand the significant role of the Kemptville campus to the agricultural community in the region. My government has been working closely with local community leaders, the Kemptville Renewal Task Force and the University of Guelph to explore options to support the continued availability of academic programs.

We understand and appreciate the importance of students in Eastern Ontario having access to high quality agricultural programming and our government is committed to maintaining agricultural and food programs for Ontarians throughout the province.

Ensuring the continuation of agriculture programs will produce positive outcomes that will enhance job skills and support economic growth in Ontario.

To that end, we have made a \$2 million investment to maintain high quality trades and special skills training programs at the Kemptville campus for this upcoming year.

This is a good short-term solution that will guarantee access to these programs while local community leaders, the task force and local institutions work towards a longer-term solution.

We are very pleased in the progress made in addressing the challenge at the Alfred Campus and we are hopeful that similar solutions can be found for Kemptville.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Leal".

Jeff Leal
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs