

Advocacy Update



Welcome to our new Provincial Advocacy Coordinator, Judith Moses. She has significant experience in making government work for people, the private sector and the community. She is known as a bridge-builder and consensus maker and for achieving results. She has worked for the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada and has been heavily involved in her community.

Judith has a somewhat different general approach on issues from what we have done to date. She believes in going directly to the source, i.e., Government, on issues rather than just through local MPPs. She believes this would be more direct, more efficient and most importantly, politically neutral. Further, she is a great believer in pressing for meetings with Ministers to put our case forward directly. "We are a senior Ontario organization and we could certainly command a meeting when necessary.

Get Involved

There is a pressing issue which we have an opportunity to influence. FWIO is supporting the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) regarding the concerns with the new Product of Canada labeling rules. Farm and food processor organizations agree the new regulations are not going to be effective in informing consumers about product content. In fact the new Product of Canada label may not even be used.

Your voice counts. Here is what to do:

1. If you wish to support this issue, please send the sample letter that was provided to Branches via email. For a copy, contact your AVD or Board Director. Write to the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture or send the letter by email to Ritz.G@parl.gc.ca. This is one way to support our farmers and food processors.
2. Get every Member to sign and send a letter. Branches can also sign off on behalf of Members, but it is most effective if we add our personal voices through personal letters to our government.
3. Let Judith know if and when you sent your letter by email at judithmoses@rogers.com or write her at 20 Adams Street, Bradford, ON L3Z 3E4



**Save the Dates
June 4 - 6, 2010**

**You will not want
to miss this!**

The FWIO 2010 Provincial Conference is going to be held at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo

The theme is Women Informed and we are very excited about our programme and new format.

Watch the *Home & Country ROSE Garden*, plus the FWIO website for more detailed information.

And look out for the package coming to your Branch soon. Don't forget - you do not have to be a WI Member to attend!