



ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE
Department of Population Medicine

July 6, 2015

Dairy Farmers of Canada Board, Delegates and Staff;

I am a veterinarian and faculty member in the Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph. I have been working with the Canadian dairy industry for over 25 years, and currently have the distinct pleasure of holding the Dairy Farmers of Ontario Research Chair in Dairy Cattle Health. Over the last two and a half decades I have been involved in many local, national and international dairy industry projects, programs and initiatives, each one important and unique, but none as important and impactful as proAction. While the dairy industry, like all food production sectors, faces many challenges, the most important is maintaining the wonderful reputation that milk has as a wholesome, safe and sustainable food for children, adults and the elderly. Consumers of milk increasingly expect the milk products they consume to be of top quality, safe, nutritious and produced in an environmentally responsible manner. The commitment made by Canadian dairy farmers to milk quality, milk safety, biosecurity, animal care, traceability and the environment through proAction will serve the industry well. It won't be the only answer to the challenges we face, but it will continue to be an important and relevant one. It is a program developed by dairy farmers, for dairy farmers, and it is now time for the entire Canadian dairy community to stand behind this program and support it with a loud and unified voice.

I have been privileged to serve on the national proAction Biosecurity Working Group and the Ontario proAction Advisory Committee, to serve as a consultant to the national and provincial Animal Care Working Groups, and to provide input into the development of the Canadian Quality Milk Program and the national Traceability Program. Through all of these interactions I have been impressed by the leadership and keen insight that Canadian dairy producer committee chairs, committee members and board members have demonstrated in moving all of these programs forward through their various stages. I am proud of the collaboration and input that I have been able to bring to the process, and I strongly feel that this unique program will serve our dairy industry very well for many years to come.

I represent Canada on the International Dairy Federation Standing Committee on Animal Health and Welfare, and can state with confidence that the proAction initiative is unique in the world.

It has the potential to place Canada in a leadership position in a rapidly changing and evolving dairy world. I congratulate the DFC Board and Delegates for the work they have done, and the work that is still remaining, in making proAction the best dairy quality assurance program in the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Kelton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David F. Kelton, DVM, PhD
Professor of Epidemiology and Dairy Health Management
DFO Dairy Cattle Health Research Chair