

July 14, 2015

Mr. Wally Smith, President

Dairy Farmers of Canada

21 Florence Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0W6

**Subject:** Support for Dairy Farmers of Canada's proAction Initiative

Dear Sir:

We have reviewed the resolution adopted during Dairy Farmers of Canada's Annual General Meeting concerning the adoption of the proAction Initiative modules. We would hereby like to show our support for this ambitious initiative, in particular for the animal care module, which specifically corresponds to our area of expertise. We believe that this module will ensure the use of recognized and scientifically validated on-farm practices to improve animal welfare.

At a time when many consumers want be reassured as to the quality of care given to farm animals, we recognize the relevance of this strategic choice for the Canadian dairy chain. As a result, it goes without saying that we support and congratulate you on the initiative. Rest assured you have our full cooperation in the ongoing research for ways of enhancing the program as new discoveries emerge that could help Canadian dairy farmers in their efforts to improve the welfare of their animals.

Sincerely,

Renée Bergeron

Associate Professor, University of Guelph

Doris Pellerin, agr.

Professor, Université Laval

Elsa Vasseur

Researcher, University of Guelph