



Grain Farmers of Ontario – Proposal to update governance

Why governance matters

Strong governance ensures that Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) remains effective and aligned with the needs of its members. Our decision-making structure must remain representative, transparent, and able to support long-term success. Updating the governance model helps ensure that farmer voices are accurately reflected and that GFO can respond to future challenges.

Background

- The regulations that govern GFO have been in place for over 15 years.
- Through GFO's Strategic Plan, members directed the organization to evaluate governance and modernize the structure.
- A member resolution requested a review of how delegates are allocated by district.
- A Board-appointed Governance Committee reviewed options and made recommendations, which were approved by the GFO Board.
- GFO is now seeking farmer feedback before submitting the proposed changes to the [Farm Products Marketing Commission](#) (FPMC). Final decisions will be made by FPMC and the Government of Ontario.

Proposed changes

1. Improved delegate allocation calculation

- Uses a 5-year average of production acreage instead of a 3-year average, providing a more stable and representative calculation.
- Maintains a minimum of 8 delegates per district.
- Under the current system, remaining delegates are distributed only based on production above average.
- Under the proposed method, once minimums are assigned, remaining delegates are shared based on each district's true share of total production.
- This update better reflects long-term production patterns and ensures a more accurate and fair representation of farmer-members. See table for an example of on how the proposed regulatory changes affect the distribution of delegates by district.

2. Reduction in minimum district meetings

- The minimum number of district delegate meetings would be reduced to 3 from 4 per year, reflecting current engagement practices and reducing administrative burden.

3. Term limit included in regulation

- The current 12-year term limit for directors, which is already in the bylaws, would be formalized within the regulation.

4. Standardized production data

- Delegate numbers would be calculated using Agricorp data for yield averages for all crop types, providing a consistent and verified source of production information. The actual licence fee amounts submitted to GFO remain the basis for calculating delegate allocation by district.

Intended impact

These changes are designed to:

- Improve accuracy and fairness of district representation.
- Ensure modern and effective governance that aligns with how grain is produced.
- Strengthen GFO's provincial voice by preventing the concentration of delegates in a few regions.

Next steps and farmer input

We want your feedback. GFO will compile member comments into a formal submission to the Farm Products Marketing Commission. Following that, the commission will conduct a public consultation. The deadline for feedback to Grain Farmers of Ontario is January 31, 2026.

How to provide input:

- Email members@gfo.ca
- Web form at gfo.ca/regulations
- Paper feedback forms at January district meetings

Closing message

This proposal reflects farmer direction, supports accuracy and representation, and prepares GFO for the future. Your voice is essential in shaping how your organization governs itself.

We invite all farmer-members to share their thoughts on the proposed changes.

DISTRICT	2025	2026	Proposal (2026)
District 1 Essex	8	8	8
District 2 Kent	15	14	13
District 3 Lambton	9	8	10
District 4 Middlesex	9	9	10
District 5 Elgin, Norfolk	8	8	9
District 6 Haldimand, Brant, Hamilton, Niagara	9	9	10
District 7 Oxford, Waterloo	8	8	8
District 8 Huron	11	11	11
District 9 Perth	8	8	8
District 10 Grey, Bruce, Wellington	20	21	15
District 11 Dufferin, Simcoe, Halton, Peel, York	10	10	11
District 12 Durham, Northumberland, Kawartha, Peterborough, Hastings	8	8	9
District 13 Prince Edward, Lennox, Addington, Frontenac, Lanark, Leeds, Grenville, Renfrew, Ottawa	8	8	9
District 14 Prescott, Russell, Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry	11	12	11
District 15 Northern Ontario	8	8	8
TOTAL	150	150	150