



The City of Port Colborne

*Sent via email*

Re: Port Colborne Grain Terminal

The Niagara Federation of Agriculture (NFA) is an agricultural organization representing over 1,400 farm family members. Niagara offers the most diversified area of food production in all of Canada and agriculture has proven to be the economic mainstay within the Region. Agricultural producers have \$930 million in gross farm receipts with an employment impact of 30,855 jobs within the Region. The Niagara Federation of Agriculture (NFA) is the local extension of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) which represents over 38,000 farm family members across our province.

We are writing to express our strong concern regarding the potential loss of the Port Colborne Grain Terminal as an active grain facility and to urge council to prioritize its continued operation as a vital agricultural asset. This site can play a crucial role in supporting Ontario's grain farmers, facilitating trade, and ensuring efficient transportation of agricultural commodities within the province and beyond. With multiple businesses having already expressed interest in continuing grain operations at this site, it is imperative that the city pursue these opportunities rather than shifting toward non-agricultural uses.

Agriculture is a significant economic driver in the Niagara Region. In 2020, farm revenues in the region totaled over \$902 million, and the sector contributed \$1.7 billion to total business revenue when considering the businesses that rely on selling their products to farmers. The permanent closure and redevelopment of the Port Colborne Grain Terminal would not only disrupt local farmers' supply chains but would also weaken the broader agricultural economy.

Grain terminals are an important component of Ontario's agricultural economy, providing essential storage and logistics infrastructure that allow farmers to efficiently market their crops. Without such facilities, farmers face increased transportation costs and logistical challenges that reduce their competitiveness. The economic ripple effects extend beyond farm businesses, affecting local suppliers, grain traders, transportation providers, and employment in the region.

Beyond their direct economic benefits, grain terminals contribute significantly to a municipality's commercial and industrial tax base. The loss of an active terminal and the transition to residential development would not only disrupt the agricultural supply chain but would also represent a permanent loss of commercial and industrial tax revenue for the municipality. OFA's economic impact analysis shows that for every additional dollar in farm revenue, an additional \$1.90 in total business revenue is created. Additionally, for

every dollar of GDP generated by farming, another \$2.18 in GDP is created within the provincial economy.

Moreover, the Niagara farming sector supports over 15,000 jobs, contributing both direct employment and indirect job creation through supply chains. Removing critical agricultural infrastructure like the Port Colborne Grain Terminal jeopardizes not only farmers' operational efficiency but limits the local farming industry's ability to generate further economic gains locally.

NFA urges the City of Port Colborne to reject any proposals that would see the grain terminal permanently removed from agricultural use. Instead, we encourage council to pursue one of the multiple commercial grain operators who have already expressed interest in maintaining the site's function. Doing so will protect the economic sustainability of local farms and the businesses that rely on a strong grain-handling network.

We appreciate your consideration of the agricultural community's concerns in this matter and encourage continued dialogue with farmers. Please contact me at 289-990-3964 or [elmfarm32@gmail.com](mailto:elmfarm32@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Mullet Koop', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Chris Mullet Koop  
President  
Niagara Federation of Agriculture