

# Roles and responsibilities: OMAFRA and MNR

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# OMAFRA & MNR: Food Safety Mandate

- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
  - Monitor compliance with legislated standards for a wide variety of food products produced and processed in Ontario
  - Provide for the quality and safety of those foods and to manage food safety risks
  - Deliver comprehensive science-based food safety programs
  - Food Inspection Branch (FIB)
    - Licensing, inspection, audit, advisory and education
- Ministry of Natural Resources
  - Interim food fish safety program that includes
    - Audits of Non-Federally Registered Fish Processors (NFRFPs)
    - Designed to protect human health until a new Ontario food safety program for fish is implemented.
  - Investigation and prosecution activities on OMAFRA's behalf

# OMAFRA & MNR: Legislation

- OMAFRA
  - Meat Inspection Program
    - Licensing, routine inspection (of animals, meat and facilities), and audit of meat plants
    - *Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001* and Meat Regulation
  - Dairy Food Safety Program
    - Cow and goat milk only (not sheep, water buffalo, etc.)
    - On-farm and transport truck inspection
    - Licensing, inspection and audit of dairy facilities and milk distributors
    - *Milk Act* and Regulations
  - Foods of Plant Origin
    - Education, advisory, end-product sampling
    - *Farm Products Grades and Sales Act* and Regulations
- MNR
  - Interim Food Fish Safety Program
    - *Fish Inspection Act (Ontario)* and Regulation

# OMAFRA & MNR: Plant Investigation

- Licensed Meat and Dairy Facilities (OMAFRA), Non-Federally Registered Fish Plants (MNR)
  - Lead or assist investigation when hazard with potential to cause illness outbreak (but no outbreak yet)
    - CFIA lead in federally-registered dairies that are also provincially licensed
  - If outbreak/recall, joint plant-level investigation with CFIA and/or local HUs
  - Review sanitation, processing, handling and storage practices
  - Assist in obtaining information, e.g. inventories, distribution lists
    - Traceback and traceforward
  - Focus on monitoring situation until hazards are controlled
- Foods of Plant Origin
  - Limited legislative authority
  - Advisory relationship with operators and familiarity with facility

# OMAFRA & MNR: Sample Collection and Lab Testing

- Licensed Meat and Dairy Facilities (OMAFRA), Non-Federally Registered Fish Plants (MNR)
  - As lead or support in plant investigation
    - Coordinate/participate in the collection of product and/or environmental samples
    - Provide and interpret applicable lab results
- Foods of Plant Origin (OMAFRA)
  - Limited authority to sample

# OMAFRA & MNR: Control of Product

- Licensed Meat and Dairy Facilities (OMAFRA)
  - Take action if believe danger to public
    - Detain, seize, dispose of product, suspend/revoke the plant licence
  - No recall provisions in OMAFRA legislation
    - CFIA, MOHLTC and local HUs would be called on to assist
- Foods of Plant Origin (OMAFRA)
  - Limited legislative authority for intervention
- Non-Federally Registered Fish Processors (MNR)
  - Seize product when reasonable grounds to believe that an offence against the FIA has been committed
  - No authority to order closure of an operation or conduct a recall
    - CFIA, MOHLTC and local HUs would be called on to assist

# OMAFRA & MNR: Internal Communication

- Licensed Meat and Dairy Facilities (OMAFRA), Foods of Plant Origin (OMAFRA), Non-Federally Registered Fish Plants (MNR)
  - All communications adhere to principles in FIORP and OFHHIOI MoU
  - All investigation and laboratory test results shared with partners on the Outbreak Investigation Coordination Committee (OICC)

# OMAFRA & MNR: External Communication

- Licensed Meat and Dairy Facilities (OMAFRA), Non-Federally Registered Fish Plants (MNR)
  - Communication with plant operator
- Foods of Plant Origin (OMAFRA)
  - Provide scientific and technical expertise to individual businesses that have been implicated in significant food safety events



Questions?

# OMAFRA & MNR: Contact Information

- OMAFRA

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- MNR

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