

Andrea Horwath



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Walter Parkinson
President
Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association
P.O. Box 371
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

June 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Parkinson,

I write today to congratulate you, and all breeders involved, on the success you have achieved in the lawsuit against the Government of Ontario.

This has been a long battle. The abrupt cancellation of the Slots at Racetracks Program by then Premier Dalton McGuinty in 2012 led to your lawsuit against the government of Kathleen Wynne in 2014. The decisions made by the Liberal government, without consultation or suitable notice being given, showed a distinct lack of respect and understanding of the horse breeding industry.

Those decisions had a devastating impact on the livelihoods of all those involved and ripped communities apart with tens of thousands jobs lost. The industry is crucial to our rural economy and could easily have been lost completely. Ontario New Democrats are proud to have fought alongside the horse racing industry to mitigate the damage being caused and we continue to offer our support.

Standardbred Breeders are to be commended for their continued determination and optimism throughout these court proceedings. You have secured an important victory for horse people, and the communities that depend on the breeding industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea Horwath", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Horwath,
Leader Official Opposition, New Democrats

cc. Katherine Curry, Ontario Racing
Brian Tropea, Ontario Harness Horse Association