



## ONTARIO HARNESS HORSE ASSOCIATION

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January 26, 2021

Jonathan Zammit  
Executive Director  
Ontario Racing  
C/O Woodbine Mohawk Park  
P.O Box 160  
Campbellville, Ontario L0P 1B0

By e-Mail: [jozammit@ontarioracing.com](mailto:jozammit@ontarioracing.com)

Dear Mr. Zammit,

I am once again writing to you today to ask that Ontario Racing immediately begin dispersing purse money that was allocated for the last days of 2020 and the entire month of January 2021 that were cancelled due to COVID-19. Based on the calculations that we have performed there was an average of approximately \$1.2 million dollars being paid out weekly prior to the closure of racing. That would equate to a total of approximately \$5 million dollars over the cancelled race dates which could be allocated to fund assistance payments. As you have mentioned in the past purses are no longer reliant on Pari-Mutuel wagering, and as such, that money has been provided and allocated for payments to support standardbred purses. There is overwhelming support from horse people to have that money distributed as soon as possible and not to have it added to future purses as was contemplated in your last letter.

As I impressed to you in my last letter there are many horsepeople that have had no opportunity to earn any purse money since racing was shut down. Not only do these people need to pay their personal bills, they have the added expenses of caring for their equine athletes.

The situation is critical. Repeated news releases to the industry that it is being discussed and that it is being worked on are adding to the frustration and

anxiousness for our members. Some of our Ontario based stables have already relocated to other racing jurisdictions and many others are contemplating following their lead. Hopefully those stables and their horses will return to Ontario once racing has been given the approval to re-open.

If OHHA can be of any assistance in addressing any of the roadblocks that are delaying these payments please let me know. OHHA is always prepared to work with industry partners on any and all matters that affect the very labor intensive agricultural industries of horse breeding, training and racing and I am available at any time.

You have my contact information if you believe that OHHA can be of any assistance.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Whelan".

Jim Whelan  
President