



# ONTARIO HARNESS HORSE ASSOCIATION

---

35 CRAWFORD CRESCENT, PO BOX 429, CAMPBELLVILLE, ONTARIO L0P 1B0  
Telephone (905) 854-OHHA (6442) • Toll Free: 1-866-774-OHHA (6442) • Fax (905) 854-6103  
E-mail: [info@ohha.ca](mailto:info@ohha.ca) • Website: [www.ohha.ca](http://www.ohha.ca)

February 2, 2021

## Ontario Harness Horse Association appreciates Government support

The Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA) appreciates the support of the Provincial Government for their efforts to provide funding to assist horse people through this most recent Covid-19 lockdown. Caring for horses is an essential service and is very labour intensive. In fact, the care of horses is one of the most, if not the most, labour-intensive agricultural industries in Canada.

Despite the fact that horse racing is currently on lockdown in Ontario, our horses still need to be cared for – this includes feeding, grooming, exercise, veterinarian and farrier services among other expenses. Without any opportunity to compete and earn revenue many horse owners are currently facing significant financial hardship.

The Ontario Harness Horse Association has lobbied the Provincial Government to allow funding that was allocated to pay purses during this lockdown period to be distributed to the owners of horses to help alleviate some of the financial strain. OHHA is pleased that the Government has listened and that payments will soon be available to owners that have racehorses in Ontario that are in training, preparing to race once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

While these payments won't cover the entire cost of maintaining our horses, it will provide enough assistance to ensure the well-being of our members and their horses.

OHHA will continue to work with Provincial members from all parties to raise awareness of issues that affect our industry and to work cooperatively with the Government to provide assistance to our membership.

While everyone hopes to be racing soon, the industry must follow the advice of the health professionals that are tasked with keeping the population safe. In the meantime, owners are encouraged to have their trainers apply for the temporary funding available by no later than Monday February 8, 2021 in order to receive a share of the industry funding. Forms can be found on the OHHA website at [www.ohha.ca](http://www.ohha.ca) or on the Ontario Racing website by going to member information, then breeds followed by standardbred.

[Application-for-Payments-to-Horse-Owners-January-2021.pdf.aspx \(ontarioracing.com\)](#)

Please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you on the track soon!