

Dear

Ontario Standardbred Racing is now in the midst of its third extended shutdown in the last 12 months.

We have seen an unprecedented number of horse people and horses leave Ontario to race in American jurisdictions where racing is deemed safe, and should this continue, it will have a devastating impact on our industry's future, and the 30,000 people in this province who make a living directly because of racing, and the thousands of agricultural suppliers who provide feed, bedding, supplies, etc for our horses.

Last year and earlier this year, Ontario's horse racing industry demonstrated that it can operate safely during the pandemic and abide by health authority regulations. The Government has provided additional safety nets with Phase 2 of its COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan which provides eligibility to essential frontline workers including agriculture and farm workers.

These are extremely critical times for our industry, our horses and horse people. We need to get back to racing to protect the health and welfare of the horses, the livelihoods of thousands of horse people and the future of the industry.

We appreciate your support to enable us to get back to the races as soon as possible and need your help as a concerned MPP to make this happen!

Sincerely,