

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between  
*Manitoba Organic Alliance (MOA)*  
And  
*Organic Food Council of Manitoba (OFCM-COG)*  
And  
*Organic Producer Association of Manitoba (OPAM)*

### Purpose:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides a framework for MOA, OFCM-COG, and OPAM to collectively advance the capacity of Manitoba's organic sector with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, effective communication and collaboration.

### Agreements:

MOA, OFCM-COG, & OPAM declare their intentions by agreeing to undertake the following activities and services, but not limited to:

MOA works as the umbrella organization bringing together organic operators, organizations and stakeholders from across the Manitoba organic value chain to identify needs and solutions and work together to promote the growth of organics in Manitoba. The MOA may do this by:

- fostering the exchange of information and discussion of organic issues
- fostering the development of actions and plans to support and promote organics,
- advocating on behalf of the organic sector for government policies which support organics,
- working with government to develop the initiatives and resources strategic to the growth of organics
- supporting organic production research
- supporting extension of organic agronomy to producers
- participating in the Organic Trade Association, and the CGSB Organic Technical committee.
- participating in Organic Week
- developing the regulatory framework and policies which support organic production
- responding to media interest

OFCM-COG promotes the benefits of organic food to the general public across Manitoba, and supports local production and farmers with resources and community building. OFCM does this by:

- promoting the benefits of local and organic
- providing information, materials and resources to farmers and to consumers
- responding to inquiries
- delivering talks about organics
- participating in or organizing organic events, programs, conferences, and workshops
- working in partnership with other organizations and businesses
- supporting local organic production research
- contributing knowledge to MOA and to OPAM,
- participating in the CGSB Organic Technical committee.

OPAM is an organic certifier which:

- provides professional organic certification services to Canadian clients wishing to market organic products in Canada and elsewhere.
- OPAM works with other certifying bodies,
- creates networking opportunities for farmers.

- collaborates on farmer extension
- shares knowledge about certification and regulations.
- contributes knowledge to MOA.

MOA, OFCM-COG and OPAM will work with MAFRD in various capacities, as needed, understanding that MAFRD accelerates greater prosperity & capacity of organic producers, industry, processors, entrepreneurs, communities and organizations by providing leadership, information, programs & services.

**Meeting & Reporting:**

To accomplish the purpose and objectives set forth in the MOU, partners will meet as needed to ensure effective collaboration.

**Financial Responsibilities:**

Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed a commitment or obligation of funds from MOA, OFCM, or OPAM.

**Duration:**

This MOU is at-will and may be modified with mutual consent of authorized officials with the listed partners. Once signed by authorized officials from each organization, this MOU shall become effective and remain in effect until modified or terminated in writing by any one partner.

signed,

Kate Storey, president  
Manitoba Organic Alliance

Janine Gibson, chairperson  
Organic Food Council of MB  
COG Executive Secretary

John Finnie, president  
Organic Producers Association of MB