



Agriculture

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Letter in Support of LD 2144

Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Prioritize Wellness and Mental Health Resources for Heritage Industries

January 12, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Bloyce Thompson, Minister of Agriculture for Prince Edward Island, and I am writing to express my strong support for LD 2144, *Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Prioritize Wellness and Mental Health Resources for Heritage Industries*.

Last summer, I had the privilege of hosting the Maine Commissioner of Agriculture, along with the Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture, in Prince Edward Island. Our discussions reinforced my conviction that cross-border collaboration on rural mental health is both necessary and achievable.

In Prince Edward Island, we have recognized similar challenges within our farming community and have taken decisive action through our FarmersTalk initiative. The Farmers Counselling Program offers free and confidential professional counselling services to farmers, farm employees, and their families. Recognizing that personal challenges often affect both home life and work performance, we provide access to trained counsellors who offer short-term support or referrals to specialized community resources. This program has proven invaluable in supporting the mental health and wellness of our agricultural community. It has been well received, and there has been positive feedback about the difference it is making.

I strongly urge you to support this Resolve. As a neighboring province that has walked this path, I can attest to the profound difference such initiatives can make. Investing in mental health resources is not only compassionate—it is essential for the sustainability of these vital industries.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Thompson".

Hon. Bloyce Thompson
Minister of Agriculture