



**Policy Recommended by:** OFT Land Committee      **Effective:** April 24, 2019

**Approved by OFT Executive Committee:** April 10, 2019      **Replaces:** Not applicable

**Approved by OFT Board of Directors:** April 24, 2019      **Next Review:** April 2022

## **Managing Amendments on Easement Properties**

### **Policy Statement**

The Ontario Farmland Trust (OFT) is accountable for monitoring and maintaining the provisions as registered in each easement agreement. To do so, OFT staff and Board members complete annual site visits to each easement property. In the event that an amendment to the current easement is requested by a landowner, the following procedure will be undertaken.

### **Procedure**

1. A meeting will be scheduled with the easement landowner(s) and the OFT Executive Director, as well as any relevant easement partners, to review the requested amendment with the landowner.
2. The easement landowner will be provided with a copy of OFT's *Managing Amendments on Easement Properties Policy*, outlining their role, OFT's role, and costs for managing amendments to the easement agreement.
3. The Executive Director will bring the proposed amendment to the Board for a decision.
4. The Executive Director will advise the landowner if OFT can proceed with the request.

### **Roles, Requirements, Responsibilities, and Costs**

It is difficult and costly to amend easement agreements once they are in place. If OFT determines that the proposed amendment is beneficial to the agreement and strengthens the protections in place, OFT may agree to work with the landowner to request an amendment from the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (and Environment and Climate Change Canada in the case of an Eco-Gift). This is at the discretion of OFT's Board of Directors. OFT will provide a cost estimate to the landowner to cover costs incurred, including legal costs and staff time to manage the amendment and approval process. Costs can vary, but in the past they have ranged from \$2,000 - \$5,000. This does NOT guarantee that the amendment can or will be approved.