

From: Abdallah @ Beytoot <abdallah@beytoot.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 10:50 AM
To: Ostrander, Brian; Hankivsky, Olena; Cleveland, Lucas; Crate, Bob; Jibb, Scott; Logel, John; Martin, Mandy
Cc: Mather, Maddison
Subject: Urgent Support for OAFVC Funding

CAUTION: External E-Mail

Dear Members of Council,

My name is Abdallah El Bacha, and I am the co-founder of Beytoot, an Ontario-based small business crafting authentic dips and spreads that are now available in 60+ retailers across Ontario. I am reaching out with a heavy heart regarding the potential reduction in funding for the Ontario Agri-Food Venture Centre (OAFVC).

As a small startup, OAFVC has been our lifeline. It is not just a facility to us-it is the foundation on which we've built our dreams. We've invested countless hours and resources, securing our Safe Quality Food (SQF) certification for the facility, which was an enormous step for a small business like ours. This certification has allowed us to meet the highest food safety standards and paved the way for milestones like our recent listing at Whole Foods-a turning point that promises to transform our business.

But without OAFVC, this progress could come to a halt. The thought of losing access to the facility and the invaluable support it provides is devastating. It's not just our business that would suffer; it's the countless small businesses who rely on OAFVC to turn their ideas into viable enterprises. Reducing funding or, worse, closing the facility would pull the rug out from under us at a time when we are finally seeing the fruits of our labour.

We've poured everything into this journey-not just money, but heart, soul, and years of hard work. OAFVC is more than a facility; it's a beacon of hope for entrepreneurs like us who are trying to build something meaningful while navigating the challenges of scaling a small business.

I implore you to consider the far-reaching impact this decision will have, not only on businesses like mine but also on the local economy and innovation in the agri-food sector. I hope this email serves as a voice for the many businesses who depend on OAFVC and who might not have the chance to speak up.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

Abdallah El Bacha

Abdallah El Bacha

Co-Founder

Beytoot Inc.



647-446-6241

abdallah@beytoot.ca

www.beytoot.ca

2209-20 Tubman Ave, Toronto, ON, M5A 0M8

