Thank you for your letter regarding Maple Leaf Foods’ application to the Rural Economic Development (RED) Program.

Maple Leaf Foods has made significant commitments in both capital and people to the Hamilton community. I appreciate the importance of these commitments to your city and to area residents who are interested in employment opportunities with this company.

Unfortunately, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is not currently accepting applications to the RED Program because it is fully subscribed for the 2011–12 fiscal year. I anticipate that the program will re-open in the spring of 2012, and Maple Leaf Foods will be invited to re-submit its application at that time.

Again, thank you for writing. It is my hope that 2012 brings great things to the City of Hamilton and to communities across the province.

Kindest personal regards,

Ted McMeekin
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs