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FARMERS' MARKETS TO GET NEW HEALTH RULES

BYLINE: BY ANTONELLA ARTUSO

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First it was sushi.

Now farmers' markets are in the crosshairs of Ontario public health officials, who are proposing a new regulatory regime as early as this fall.

Conservative MPP Bob Runciman said yesterday that a whole country way of life is being put at risk by the "big brother" approach of the Dalton McGuinty government.

Health Minister George Smitherman said the province's chief medical officer of health, Dr. Sheela Basrur, is developing an education campaign in advance of new public health regulations for the hundreds of farmers markets, church suppers and the like that operate in Ontario.

The minister promised to consult first with those affected by the proposed changes.

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