



# NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

## The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA)

### Health and Nutrition

*If elected, will your party commit to implementing policy that supports increasing fresh fruit and vegetable consumption to improve the health of Canadians?*

#### NDP Response:

The NDP is proud to be the only party with a comprehensive food strategy to connect food from farm to factory to fork. Our food strategy includes policies to improve access to healthy food and food literacy, it calls for consumer choice for fresh, seasonal produce and would banish the advertisement of food to children.

### Payment Protection for Produce Sellers

*a) If elected, will your party commit to establishing a limited statutory deemed trust for produce sellers and to re-establishing Canada's preferential access to U.S. PACA protections?*

#### NDP Response:

An NDP government will work with the Canadian Produce Marketing Association, the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation, and other stakeholders to draft and table federal legislation to create a limited statutory deemed trust for produce sellers. We will also undertake immediate negotiations with the United States to restore Canada's preferential access under PACA.

*b) If elected, will your party commit to continuing the work to eliminate the dual licensing system and establish a single system through membership of the DRC?*

#### NDP Response:

Yes – an NDP government will continue the phase-out of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's licensing system, requiring all produce sellers and buyers to be licensed through the DRC.

## **Food Safety Modernization**

*If elected, will your party recognize the significant effort undertaken by the CFIA, industry and other stakeholders and continue with and build on this effort to finalize the SFCA regulations?*

### **NDP Response:**

Yes, an NDP government will build on the consultations and work of CFIA and industry and move quickly to finalize the SFCA regulations.

*If elected, will your party ensure that the SFCA does not include exemptions from food safety, traceability and licensing requirements for any food business covered under the Act because of size?*

### **NDP Response:**

For the NDP, the safety of Canadians must be paramount. We want to help businesses cut red tape and grow, but we must absolutely protect important regulations that protect the health and safety of Canadians and the foods they eat.

## **Labour and Temporary Foreign Workers**

*If elected, will your party recognize that agricultural labour needs are unique and that program-specific administration must be modified to better help the produce industry supply chain meet labour needs and take immediate action to do so?*

### **NDP Response:**

The agriculture and agri-food sector has been badly served by the Conservatives' policies on immigration and Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs). Instead of helping farmers, producers and food processors to develop a stable workforce, the Conservatives have forced them to turn to TFWs who are banned from staying and becoming citizens. The Conservatives also mismanaged the TFW program, resulting in lengthy wait times and in some cases, workers who arrive after the need for them is over.

An NDP government will work with farmers, ranchers and food processors to implement the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Workforce Action Plan and to recruit and train Canadians. Where Canadian workers are unavailable, the NDP will work with the sector to bring in workers as immigrants or as TFWs with a pathway to citizenship. And for existing workforces, the NDP will create a pathway to citizenship for all TFWs, allowing trained workers the opportunity to stay with current employers and giving employers the opportunity to keep their trained workers – as Canadian citizens.

## **Research and Innovation**

*If elected, what is your party's commitment to research and to approval of new technologies for such things as pest management to allow the Canadian produce sector to remain competitive in the global market?*

### **NDP Response:**

The NDP's comprehensive food strategy includes policies to support research and development as the key to a successful agricultural sector, including stable, long-term funding to promote agricultural research in the public interest, and farmer-directed research institutions. We will also work to reverse cuts to public research facilities and regional projects.

## **North American Perimeter Approach**

*If elected, what will your party do to establish a North American perimeter approach and ensure a smooth and improved trading relationship between Canada, the US and Mexico?*

### **NDP Response:**

The NDP will continue the ongoing work of harmonizing regulations to facilitate trade throughout North America, while ensuring that the health and safety of Canadians are not compromised.