

Questionnaire – Canadian Produce Marketing Association
Financial Protection for Produce Sellers

1. Should you be elected, will your party commit to protecting Canadian produce sellers by creating a bankruptcy insolvency tool in the form of a deemed trust in Canada?

To regain important financial protection for our produce sector, an Andrew Scheer Government would take steps to restore the dispute resolution mechanism by which our produce sector was protected against the financial risk of a US buyer becoming insolvent.

2. Will your party commit to working with your U.S. counterparts to restore this non-regulatory reciprocal arrangement thereby reinstating Canadian shippers' preferential access to the U.S. PACA Trust?

See previous response

Labour

3. Will your party commit to implementing a Trusted Employer program to facilitate expanded and more efficacious access to foreign labour, and will your party commit to expanding the definition of primary agriculture to allow for access to the Ag Stream of the Temporary Foreign Workers Program for pack houses that do not have an on-farm operation?

Yes; an Andrew Scheer government would develop and implement a comprehensive, long-term Agriculture and Agri-Food Labour Strategy. This strategy will be led by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and will be developed in close consultation with the industry. The strategy will aim to ensure that farmers and food processors have efficient access to the low and high-skilled workers that they need; it will also promote the sector to Canadians who may be unaware of the excellent work opportunities that currently exist. All of your suggestions will be considered in the development of this strategy.

Plastics

4. Should your party form government, will you commit to working with industry to find a science-based approach and solution to mitigate the use of unnecessary and problematic plastics in Canada's food system that is aligned with provincial and territorial efforts?

As outlined in our Real Plan for the Environment, an Andrew Scheer government would, among other things:

- **Work with producers to minimize the plastic packaging of products; and**
- **work with provinces, territories, plastics producers and other stakeholders to develop a nationally harmonized regulatory regime for plastics recycling including elements of extended producer responsibility and harmonized standards for products and packaging containing plastic.**

5. What is your party's position on unnecessary and problematic plastics packaging and how will you address the collection, design and reduction of these plastics in Canada?

An Andrew Scheer government would:

- **Ban the export of plastics waste unless it can be shown that it will be recycled at its destination and impose tough penalties for violations;**
- **Work with provinces, territories, plastics producers and other stakeholders to develop a nationally harmonized regulatory regime for plastics recycling including elements of extended producer responsibility and harmonized standards for products and packaging containing plastic;**
- **Work with producers to minimize the plastic packaging of products;**
- **Work with international partners to combat oceans plastic; and**
- **Work with provinces and territories to reduce waste and to increase the recovery of clean energy products and other valuable by-products from existing waste.**

Data and Innovation

6. Will your party commit to the expansion of data collection, analysis and delivery to industry by the federal departments who are stakeholders in this area?

An Andrew Scheer government will be willing to consider proposals such as this in the future.

7. What is your party's policy on enabling small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in the fresh produce industry to access innovation funding? What funding will you make available to SMEs across the fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain?

An Andrew Scheer government would conduct a comprehensive review of taxation in Canada with the aim of making changes that will help increase competitiveness and innovation.

Crop Protection

8. Will your party work towards harmonization and commit to having the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) work with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a joint schedule for pesticide re-evaluations of older chemistries?

An Andrew Scheer government would amend the mandate of the PMRA to ensure that competitiveness is taken into account when making regulatory decisions. We would also encourage science-based harmonization of pesticide regulation with Canada's trading partners.

9. Will your party commit to harmonize maximum residue limits (MRLs) between Canada, the US and other trading partners?

See previous response.

10. Will your party commit to fulfilling PMRA Regulatory Directive DIR 98-02 to further regulatory harmonization by considering chemistry reviews by the EPA as acceptable to MRLs here in Canada?

See previous response

11. Will your Party commit to continued funding to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Minor Use Program and harmonize the Minor Use Program and the US IR-4 program which will to (sic) allow for the acceptance of US registrations in Canada for minor use crops?

See previous response

12. Will your party commit to improved efficiencies in PMRA and remove impediments to the introduction of newer, safer, more effective crop protection?

An Andrew Scheer government would ensure that the PMRA has enough resources to deliver its mandate in a thorough and predictable manner.

Trade

13. Should you be elected, how will your government ensure greater market access for fresh produce commodities, including in countries such as China?

Our previous Conservative government took market access very seriously. We signed 53 trade deals in less than ten years in office and worked hard to remove non-tariff trade barriers when they came up. An Andrew Scheer government would continue this proud tradition, which will include taking a more aggressive approach to removing non-tariff trade barriers.

On trade, our election platform [includes](#) the following:

- **Stand Up for Canada's Trade Interests:**

To support Canadian industries, a new Conservative government's focus will remain squarely on promoting Canada's competitive advantage in global supply chains. Justin Trudeau has prioritized self-congratulatory speeches that charm celebrities and aggravate our trading partners. It is time to focus on Canadians, not Trudeau's progressive posturing.

We will respond forcefully to non-tariff barriers, particularly in the agriculture sector, and foreign industrial subsidies so that Canadians can compete on a level playing field. Many of the trade disputes that have been big barriers to our exports of agricultural goods have been met with half-hearted responses from Justin Trudeau. Canadian canola, soy, pork, beef, berries, lentils, and many other products have been impacted, costing Canadian producers hundreds of millions of dollars. A Conservative government would set up global monitoring of non-tariff barriers and aggressively challenge these at the World Trade Organization. We would also be willing to retaliate with our own trade sanctions, such as imposing tariffs or regulatory restrictions, to forcefully defend Canada's trade interests.

To ensure that our trading partners live up to the spirit, not just the letter, of our agreements, we will insist on chapters dealing with non-tariff trade barriers in future trade deals. Decades ago, the primary barriers to trade were tariffs. As these have

come down, it is now regulatory and non-tariff barriers that are the biggest problems for Canadian exporters, particularly in the agricultural sector. Canadian canola, soy, pork, beef, berries, lentils, and many other products have been blocked by arbitrary rules overseas. We will include chapters in future trade agreements to address these issues and to find new ways for resolving these types of regulatory disputes.

- **Create a CETA and CPTPP Accelerator:**

To better support our small and medium enterprises on the world stage, we will provide extra funding to support Canada's entrepreneurs in finding customers in Europe as well as in markets opened by our new free trade agreements. Sometimes, just signing a trade agreement is not enough. An 'accelerator' is necessary to take full advantage of these newly opened markets. This accelerator will provide market intelligence or advice on local regulations, as well as funding to attend trade shows.

- **Share Better Information About our Free Trade Agreements with Canada's Businesses:**

To help small and medium enterprises understand the benefits of a free trade agreement to their business, we will provide valuable industry-by-industry market intelligence to exporters – not just agreement-by-agreement – so they can learn where the greatest opportunities are.

It is also important to stress that the Conservative Party is *very* concerned that a Liberal/NDP coalition government will continue to enact policies and regulations that will hurt Canada's already worsening competitiveness.

14. Will your party endorse a North American perimeter approach to trade, including for inspections, plant health and crop protection?

An Andrew Scheer government will work hard to open markets and break down regulatory barriers with major trading partners, including the United States and Mexico.

15. Is your party committed to ensuring FPT regulatory alignment? If so, what is your plan to achieve greater regulatory alignment across the country?

A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will host a First Ministers Meeting to push forward with a new, improved agreement on interprovincial trade. At that meeting we would:

- **In consultation with provinces, create a framework for evaluating whether a particular provincial law or regulation is primarily a barrier to prevent trade or whether it is a proportional, reasonable and necessary exercise of provincial jurisdiction for health, safety, consumer protection, or other legitimate reasons.**

Finance and Taxation

16. Will your party commit to increasing the federal and capital asset limits to 2019 levels, accounting for inflation, and tying both limits to increase annually at the rate of inflation?

An Andrew Scheer government would conduct a comprehensive review of taxation in Canada with the aim of making changes that will help increase competitiveness and innovation for businesses.

National Food Policy Council

17. Is your party committed to implementing and funding the announced National Food Policy Advisory Council and ensure multi-stakeholder participation?

An Andrew Scheer government will consult with agriculture stakeholders as to the best use of the money committed by the Liberal government for a National Food Policy.

18. What is your party's position on the development of a national school food program as part of Canada's National Food Policy?

This proposal falls under provincial jurisdiction and is not something that an Andrew Scheer government would pursue.

However, Andrew Scheer has already confirmed that his government would maintain and increase important health and social transfers to provinces, which would give provinces more financial flexibility to fund programs such as a provincial school food program if they so choose.

Spring Weight Restrictions

19. Will you commit to taking a leadership role in working with the provinces and territories to harmonize spring weight restrictions on highways, including an exemption to these restrictions for the fresh produce industry, as has been done for other sectors?

An Andrew Scheer government would take a leadership role in working to reduce trade barriers between provinces, in general. Spring weight restrictions could be something considered under this initiative.