

NDP Response: Canadian Produce Marketing Association

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?*

Yes, New Democrats recognize that the lack of financial protection for Canadians selling fruits and vegetables makes the industry incredibly risky. Tracey Ramsey and Ruth Ellen Brosseau worked hard to push the Liberals to create a bankruptcy insolvency tool. In government, New Democrats will introduce a payment protection program for produce growers.

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?*

New Democrats are committed to restoring Canada's preferential status under PACA so that Canadian producers and dealers who sell in the United States know that their payments are protected.

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?*

New Democrats recognize that the delays in applications for the temporary foreign-workers program has negatively affected employers who depend on these workers. New Democrats would continue ongoing consultations on the implementation of a Trusted Employer program and the definitions of primary agriculture to better serve the needs of the Canadian produce industry.

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?*

New Democrats believe that Canada must significantly reduce the use of plastics in Canada's food system – especially unnecessary and problematic plastics. In government, New Democrats would work with industry, provinces and territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments to improve data collection and research that results in plastic reduction efforts.

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

We will tackle existing plastic pollution by working with provinces and territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments to capture and recycle the single-use plastics that are already in our communities. To reduce the waste in our landfills and communities, we will ban single-use plastics across Canada by 2022, and develop strong, enforceable extended producer-responsibility legislation that holds companies responsible for the entire lifecycle of the plastics products and packaging.

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?*

New Democrats know that good policy is informed by good data collection, analysis and delivery of information. We will work with stakeholders across government to keep Canadian policies up-to-date with the best available data.

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?*

We know that supporting our local food systems is essential to ensuring that Canadians have access to healthy affordable food. We'll work to connect Canadians to farmers with initiatives like local food hubs, community-supported agriculture, and networks to increase the amount of food that is sold, processed and consumed in local and regional markets.

To help Canadian small business step out onto the world stage, a New Democrat government will streamline access to government export services to make it simpler to break into foreign markets. We'll also provide small- and medium-sized businesses with a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance – freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business.

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?*

New Democrats know that as the methods of science change so too must our regulations. New Democrats will work with stakeholders, including industry, to determine best practices for the re-evaluations of older chemistries to ensure consistency across different levels of government.

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

New Democrats recognize that the export market is hindered because of delays in regulatory approvals between Canada and the United States. New Democrats will work with stakeholders, including industry, on best practices for harmonizing MRLs between Canada and its trading partners.

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?

New Democrats believe in a smooth process for the consideration of chemistry reviews in Canada. New Democrats will work with stakeholders, including industry, to determine best practices for reviews already completed by the EPA.

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 allow for the acceptance of US registrations in Canada for minor use crops?

New Democrats believe Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Minor Use Program is an effective tool to improve the availability of reduced-risk products and minor-use pesticides in Canada. New Democrats will continue funding this program.

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

New Democrats will work with stakeholders and industry to improve PMRA and consult on best practices to remove impediments on crop protection products.

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

To build on the pride and quality of Canadian producers, we'll work with producers along the supply chain to increase the amount of Canadian food that is sold, processed and consumed in local, regional and international markets.

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

New Democrats support fair trade that broadens opportunity in all areas of the country while protecting our industries and upholding labour standards, environmental

protections and human rights. We're committed to improving the transparency of trade negotiations, so that Canadians can clearly understand that costs and benefits of any proposed agreement and have their say before it's signed. That's why a New Democrat government will directly engage with Canadians on the expected costs and benefits of potential trade deals.

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

New Democrats will work with Canadian producers to determine best practices on regulatory alignment across the country.

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?*

New Democrats will work with producers to determine appropriate federal and capital assets to modern levels.

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

New Democrats are committed to working together with farmers and food producers to develop a National Food Policy, making our food systems stronger all across the country. This includes food labelling and traceability so that Canadians can be confident in what they're purchasing to put on their family's plate.

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

New Democrats will partner with provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous communities to work towards a national school nutrition program that will give every child in Canada access to healthy food, and food literacy skills to make healthy choices for life. We'll aim to make culturally-appropriate food available to children in every community in Canada, so that all children can grow and learn.

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?*

New Democrats will work with the provinces and territories to harmonize spring weight restrictions on highways, and we'll work with producers and stakeholders to explore exemptions for the fresh produce industry.