

May 30, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Prime Minister's Office
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

The Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road Tower 7, Floor 9, Room 149,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Hon. Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
235 Queen Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

The Hon. Joyce Murray, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian
Coast Guard
200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

The Hon. Mary Ng, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Trade
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

The Hon. Gudie Hutchings, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Rural Economic Development
235 Queen Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

The Hon. Harjit Sajjan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Development and
Minister responsible for the Pacific Development
Agency
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Re: Open Letter from Canadian Food Producers Call on Government of Canada to Address Growing Global Food Insecurity: Unleash Canada's Food Production Potential

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

Canadian food producers and suppliers call on the Federal Government to unleash Canada's great potential for producing sustainable, affordable food for Canadians and the world. With rapidly rising food prices and the growing spectre of global food shortages, Canada not only has the potential, but an obligation, to support food production as a top policy priority.

With the war in Ukraine, ongoing challenges from COVID, global supply chain problems and environmental shocks from climate change, Canadians and citizens around the world are facing higher food costs and shortages. The poor are – and will be – disproportionately affected. It is time for Canada to intensify food production to sustainably and affordably feed Canadians and the world.

Securing food for Canadians and others, particularly for developing countries and alleviating poverty, is of fundamental importance. The current situation calls for a major renewed focus on enhancing Canada's food productivity and the organizations listed below are calling on the Canadian government to take immediate action.

We propose two areas for immediate focus:

- 1) **Make Secure Food Production and Supply a Top Consideration in Policy and Funding Decisions:** Canada's domestic food production capacity must not only be protected, but fostered through supportive regulatory, political and policy decisions. Political and regulatory and funding decisions in the near term such as agriculture's Next Policy Framework should prioritize food security and productivity in the policy and decision-making process. This must include a focus on supply-chain resiliency to ensure Canada has the ability to get our products to the markets that need them most. With the right policy and regulatory environment, Canada's food producers can not only maintain, but increase levels of food production of all types.
- 2) **Focus on an Agile, Modern Regulatory Environment that Supports Production Growth:** The 2019 Agri-Food and Aquaculture Roadmap¹ highlighted that predictable and efficient regulations are needed to reduce barriers to investment, innovation and growth. We recommend an immediate review of the status of all outstanding projects in the Roadmap and renewed attention to their completion. In addition, we suggest that the Agile Regulations Committee take a more focused approach, targeting a small number of regulatory changes at a time to achieve results.

Prime Minister and Ministers, now is the time to double efforts to realize Canada's commitment to delivering the best, sustainable and high-quality and affordable food to Canadians, while also growing jobs, driving economic growth and supplying this food to the world.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Signature page follows]

¹ Agri-food and Aquaculture Roadmap: <https://inspection.canada.ca/about-cfia/acts-and-regulations/forward-regulatory-plan/regulatory-roadmap/eng/1612197905956/1612197906166#a3>



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