



QUÉBÉCOIS

BLOC
2021

Montréal, September 9, 2021

Rick Bergmann
Canadian Pork Council
tordy@cpc-ccp.com

Dear Mr. Bergmann,

Please find attached our responses to the questionnaire you sent us in the lead-up to the 2021 federal election. We hope the answers we have provided will help you gain a better understanding of our political program.

You will find more details about our policies on our website:

<http://www.blocquebecois.org/>

Yours sincerely,

The 2021 Bloc Québécois election team



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1. Should your party form the next government, what would you do to maintain competitive access to existing export markets and further develop trade with Asia-Pacific, a region that is critical to value chain growth?

Canada has ratified and implemented the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) with trans-Pacific countries. The Bloc Québécois believes that the government should try to take the greatest possible advantage of this agreement, for example by helping farmers tap into underdeveloped markets such as Vietnam. It would be a smart move to diversify our trade partners within the CPTPP and take advantage not only of the product's exceptional quality, but also the agreement's lower tariffs.

Additionally, it is important to focus on support for exploring new markets but also on research and development so that Quebec can maintain or even improve compliance with environmental standards and principles, animal welfare, etc. Our goal is not just to maintain access to markets, but also to open the door to new ones.

2. **How do you envision a more strategic approach to Canadian-Chinese agriculture trade? Can you commit to appointing an official at the Assistant Deputy Minister level to Canada's embassy in Beijing to reinforce the importance of the trading relationship between the two countries in the agriculture sector?**

Pork producers and processors have been affected by repeated trade incidents with China for several years now. Chinese authorities do not necessarily make a distinction between diplomatic and political issues and economic ones. Anything can be used as an excuse to sanction an action that has nothing to do with the sector affected. The idea of appointing a person in the agricultural sector is an interesting one, and worth exploring. However, we are not sure that one person, as competent as he or she may be in the subject, would be able to convince the Chinese government to keep those issues separate.

3. **Would you agree to investing \$50 million to accelerate the implementation of the Pan-Canadian African Swine Fever Action Plan?**

Prevention is the best tool to control disease, whether in humans or animals. There are ongoing discussions with the United States, especially regarding the action to take should a case appear on either side of the border. Tens of thousands of jobs are on the line, and we should have learned our lesson after episodes of avian flu and BSE. (Just two examples!) The Bloc Québécois is in favour of investing in prevention, especially if, under the model developed, a permanent system for monitoring animal diseases can be set up. The Quebec Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are currently working together, and they must continue to do so.



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4. **Will you exempt farms from the current carbon pricing system? Will you partner with farm producers to invest in research, technology and on-farm programs to further reduce carbon emissions?**

The Bloc Québécois is in favour of a green transition. This means that Canada must do everything in its power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and its environmental footprint. However, this transition must be consistent and orderly. We should also bear in mind that farmers are the ones who feed us and that they would jump at any chance to be greener.

The Bloc Québécois therefore voted in favour of Bill C-206 on farming fuel, in particular in order to give some latitude to farmers who might not yet have access to sources of renewable energy. However, it is clear that we must facilitate, chiefly through research and development, the transition to something better.