

SURVEY RESPONSE
CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Organization: Canadian Pork Council
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Canadian Pork Council

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

Canada's Conservatives believe in the importance of trade agreements to open export markets and create jobs. We also believe that trade agreements must respect the interest of Canadian workers and our country's commitment to human rights, the rule of law, protection of the environment and respect for Indigenous Peoples.

Canada is a leading pork exporter and we support the efforts of your members to further strengthen that position. We have an opportunity to boost exports and jobs in the agricultural sector not only to drive our recovery, but meet the needs of a growing global population that is getting richer and seeking quality agricultural products.

A Conservative government will develop trade with the Asia Pacific region by first pursuing a Canada--Australia--New Zealand--United Kingdom (CANZUK) agreement that could include free trade and flow of capital investment between partners. This will incorporate livestock, including pork into our free trade negotiations.

We will also seek to enlarge Canada's participation in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. The previous Conservative government negotiated Canada's entry into the original Trans-Pacific Partnership. The agreement provides secure, stable access to Asia-Pacific markets and we will continue to build on that success.

How will you deliver a more strategic approach to Canada--China agriculture trade? Will you commit to appointing an assistant deputy minister level agriculture trade official to the Canadian embassy in Beijing to reinforce the importance of the agriculture trading relationship?

Canada's Conservatives appreciate the impact of the Chinese government's aggressive actions on the agriculture sector, including pork producers. We will work with and support the industry.

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a major threat to the entire pork value chain. If detected in Canada, the virus, which kills pigs, could cripple the entire industry, including 100,000 jobs and \$24 billion in revenue. The threat became even more real when ASF was recently detected in the Dominican Republic – a country that is geographically close to Canada and a major tourist destination. Will you commit \$50 million to expedite the implementation of the Pan-Canadian ASF Action Plan?

Canada's Conservatives want to keep the food that goes onto the tables of Canadians safe. This includes combatting any sort of virus threat, such as African Swine Fever. A Conservative government will work with the provinces, industry and Canada Border Services Agency to develop a national strategy to deal with a possible outbreak of African Swine Fever.

Canada's Conservatives will also address the threat posed by animal markets and trade in wild animals, which can impact our domestic agricultural sector. We will support and encourage the closure of poorly regulated wildlife markets globally that carry an elevated risk of becoming sources for future pandemics. We will also end the importation of and trade in wild or exotic animals and their products that carry an elevated risk of spreading zoonotic diseases.

Canadian pork producers demonstrate their commitment to the environment by continually adopting innovative ways of preserving ecosystems and resources; minimizing the environmental impacts of their activities; and improving the productivity of their hogs. This hard work has resulted in Canada having one of the lowest environmental footprints in the world. However, to protect the welfare of our pigs, we require propane or natural gas to heat our barns. Will you exempt farm fuels from the current carbon pricing system? Will you partner with producers to invest in research, technology, and on-farm action to further reduce carbon emissions?

As part of Canada's Recovery Plan, our plan to secure the environment and tackle climate change will ensure that all Canadians can do their part to fight climate change, in the way that works best for them. Our plan will meet our Paris climate commitment and reduce emissions by 2030. We will do so without the government taxing working Canadians and driving jobs and investment out of the country.

Canada's Conservatives will work with the provinces to implement an innovative, national, Personal Low Carbon Savings Account. This will put a price on carbon for consumers without one penny going to the government. It will be completely transparent and engage consumers in the process of building a lower carbon future.

Canadians will pay into their Personal Low Carbon Savings Account each time they buy hydrocarbon-based fuel. They will be able to apply the money in their account towards things that help them live a greener life, such as buying a bicycle, saving up for an electric vehicle, or retrofitting their home to be more energy efficient.

Businesses that aren't subject to the Output Based Pricing System, but buy fuel, will have a Small Business Low Carbon Savings Account that will operate similarly.

Through our proposed program, we will introduce a carbon price that is affordable: starting at \$20/tonne and increasing to \$50/tonne but no further. Even at this lower carbon price, we will ensure that this does not place an excessive burden on Canadians and protect farmers by ensuring that they have affordable options.

Any fuels currently exempt from the carbon tax will be exempt from our Low Carbon Savings Accounts.

Conservatives will also adopt a number of other measures to support emissions reduction in our agricultural sector.

Capturing methane from organic sources, such as farms, reduces carbon emissions and creates a renewable source of energy. We will introduce a Renewable Natural Gas Mandate, based on British Columbia's policy, requiring 15 per cent of downstream consumption to be renewable by 2030.

In addition, we will increase the ability of the agricultural and forestry sectors to create land-based offset credits by improving the carbon sequestration of agricultural lands and managed forests, and incenting environmental protection in those sectors. This will generate emissions reductions at lower cost and protect Canadian jobs.

Canada's Conservatives will also amend existing laws to allow livestock owners to use local abattoirs. This will reduce both stress to the animals and the production of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transportation to distant facilities. We plan to make permanent the temporary measures that allow provincial authorities to collaborate on the use of their provincial abattoirs for products that would move across provincial borders.