



**Liberal Party of Canada**

350 Albert Street, Suite 920  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6M8

**Parti libéral du Canada**

350, rue Albert, bureau 920  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

September 13, 2021

Canadian Pork Council

Via email: [Stordy@cpc-ccp.com](mailto:Stordy@cpc-ccp.com)

Dear Mr. Bergmann,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

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**1. 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?**

A re-elected Liberal government would continue working with the pork sector to further develop access to foreign markets and grow our domestic exports. Early in our last mandate, we set the target of reaching \$75 billion in agri-food exports by 2025, and last year we reached \$74 billion, a 10% increase from the preceding year. Due to our strong stance on trade, our Canadian exporters are now connected to 1.5 billion customers in over 50 countries. We are pursuing an aggressive Export Diversification Strategy, backed by investments of over \$1.1 billion, to take advantage of these new trade agreements and help Canadian businesses explore new export opportunities. That includes new agricultural trade commissioners deployed in markets around the world. We launched a digital update of our Canada Brand. We also expanded the CanExport program to help businesses with digital marketing initiatives. We would continue working with the pork industry to solidify the role of the new Canadian Pork Promotion and Research Agency which we helped to create last year. This agency will help the pork sector to market pork products and develop new markets.

Some of our trade priorities include launching a new comprehensive Asia-Pacific strategy to deepen diplomatic, economic, and defence partnerships in the region, including by negotiating new bilateral trade agreements, expanding FIPAs, and building stronger economic linkage. We will also prioritize the reinforcement of economic cooperation with the Americas and develop a strategy for economic cooperation across Africa.

We will also establish a new federal hub to help Canadian businesses and entrepreneurs take full advantage of the opportunities created by CUSMA, CETA, CPTPP, and other trade agreements.

We will continue our strong support of the rules-based international order and will look for every opportunity to knock down tariff and non-tariff barriers and increase market access for Canadian producers.

**2. 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?**

We would continue work to develop the Chinese market for agricultural trade. We appointed Ambassador Dominic Barton to China, who previously led the economic strategy table advising the federal government on ways to grow the Canadian agri-food sector, and is a great champion for the sector in China and the development of our trade there. We also created the Market Access Secretariat and have been working tirelessly through the secretariat to help resolve ongoing trade irritants regarding the delisting of pork production facilities. We know that our trade relations with China require a nuanced and sophisticated



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approach, and we will continue to advocate through all channels the value of Canadian agri-food products, particularly high-quality Canadian pork.

**3. 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?**

Over the past six years we have been working diligently to prevent African Swine Fever from entering Canada and to protect pork producers from such a catastrophic scenario. A re-elected Liberal government would continue to explore all possible solutions to this end, and would be willing to consider investments as required, including in a Pan-Canadian ASF Action Plan. We are already proud of the leadership our Government has shown on this issue. We successfully concluded zoning agreements with international trading partners to allow for the safe trade of swine products from disease-free zones in Canada in the event of an ASF outbreak. We will continue to work on these agreements with other important trade partners. We invested \$31 million to increase the number of detector dogs at Canadian airports to help prevent illegally imported meat products from entering into Canada. This investment has already shown to be paying off with more contraband meat being identified at the borders. We hosted the first international ASF forum in Ottawa in 2019 with the United States, Mexico, the EU, and many other partners. We have worked with the CFIA to launch a broad-based multi-channel awareness campaign that has reached tens of millions of people. Our substantial investments into the CFIA are helping ensure they have the resources to do this all-important work. This year we increased the CFIA's budget by 5% per year (\$162.6 million over 5 years and \$40 million ongoing) to support activities in 4 key areas; Export Certification to Support Market Access, Oversight of Imports, Domestic Oversight and Surveillance, and Digitization. We would continue working closely with the pork sector to prevent and protect the pork sector from the threat of ASF.

**4. 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?**

We acknowledge the efforts made by our farmers and ranchers across the country, including the pork sector, who have made significant strides in growing production while lowering emissions. We also believe that the agriculture sector can play an even bigger part in the climate solution. That's why we have



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invested, and will increase our support for the adoption of sustainable on-farm actions and clean-technologies that pork producers can directly benefit from.

A re-elected Liberal government would move forward with our plan to provide a rebate to farmers for the price on pollution related to natural gas and propane, which could include activities like barn heating – the first payments expected this year are estimated to be \$100 million and they would increase over time. This builds upon the other exemptions already in place for farm fuels under the federal pollution pricing model. And it builds upon significant investments we are making to support producers to become more energy efficient and reduce their emissions. This year, we launched the \$165M Agricultural Clean Technology program, and in our platform, we are proposing to triple the size of this program, which would mean it would support approximately half a billion dollars of agricultural clean technology projects in Canada. Unlike past Conservative governments who have a record of cutting science and innovation, a Liberal government would continue building on our record of making substantial investments in support of science and research, because we know this is one of the best long-term ways we can drive the Canadian agri-food sector forward.