

The Halifax Statement

Canada is a global leader in agriculture and agri-food—powering economic growth, strengthening food security, and driving innovation. As global competition accelerates, Canada will elevate its leadership by boosting productivity, focusing on resilience and sustainability, unlocking new value across the supply chain, and expanding opportunities in domestic and international markets through 2033 and beyond.

The Context: A new operating reality

- The sector faces pressure to increase productivity in response to growing competition and a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.
 - The current policy mix remains more reactive than preventive, often prioritizing response and recovery over proactive measures that reduce risk exposure, strengthen resilience, and improve long-term sector competitiveness.
 - Programs are designed around episodic shocks and historical assumptions, rather than reflecting increased systemic risk exposure.
 - Farm profitability and financial resilience are under sustained pressure. Coverage and premium cost-share remains uneven across programs, sub-sectors, risk types, and regions, creating gaps in protection and inequities.
 - There is a need for outcome-based targets to catalyze investment and coordinate across governments.
 - This new reality requires novel approaches that extend beyond traditional levers within agricultural ministries to include investments in research and innovation, infrastructure, regulatory modernization, and tax policy, among others.
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Taken together, these pressures have created misalignment between Canada's agricultural policy framework and today's operating environment.

Priorities



Growth & Competitiveness



Research & Innovation



Resilience & Market Diversification



Accountability & Impact

Focus Areas

1

Increased flexibility and responsiveness in risk management programming

Increase responsiveness and equity in BRM programming to enhance core programs and disaster frameworks, while enabling alternative service delivery, including through the private sector. A strengthened and responsive BRM suite is essential for farm-level resilience and access to these programs cannot be conditional upon compliance with environmental performance.

- **Maintain core BRM programming and improve responsiveness**, for example AgriStability (e.g., enhanced coverage and compensation rates, increased cap etc.) and insurance programs (e.g., address gaps in forage insurance, cost-shared national livestock price insurance, and year-round/controlled environment agriculture etc.).
- **Introduce greater flexibility in program design and delivery, including enhanced regional flexibility**, by expanding the existing suite through additional private, public, and partnership-based tools.
- **Ensure risk management programming is calibrated to emerging risks** through a more responsive and predictable disaster framework accommodating geopolitical risks and disease events, while supporting both disaster response and proactive resilience-building measures that reduce long-term risk exposure.

2

A sector development approach to growth

Support sector competitiveness and resilience by focusing investment on high-impact areas and strengthening linkages with policy tools and programs across the Government of Canada and not just within AAFC.

- **Ensure funding levels are sufficient** to meaningfully advance shared priorities around growth and food security.
- **Focus federal-only investments across four priority areas:** (a) research and innovation; (b) value-added production and processing; (c) market maintenance, development, diversification, and quality assurance; and (d) sector resilience and sustainability for future generations (e.g., risk management extension, emergency planning, industry capacity building, and support for innovation and environmental BMPs).
- **Ensure all sectors of agriculture are eligible for Strategic Initiatives programming** including non-food agriculture and aquaculture.
- **Ensure AgriMarketing supports both market diversification and maintenance** and is tailored to address non-tariff barriers and target time-sensitive market opportunities/disruptions.
- **Ensure industry priorities drive research and innovation programs** through further investment and removing prescriptive spending requirements.
- **Supplement NPF funding by establishing dedicated agriculture streams and targeting agri-food outcomes across key government departments** including infrastructure programming, value-added processing (e.g., biofuels), tax policy, labour supports, and regulatory initiatives, including through enhanced coordination.

3

Simplified administration and increased efficiency

Streamline federal strategic initiatives program administration through a single portal and shift to outcomes-based performance measurement that prioritizes indicators such as productivity, resilience, and competitiveness, instead of administrative metrics.

- **Support outcome-based performance measurement** by focusing on clearly established targets developed with industry and results vs. specific activities or internal program metrics.
- **Enhance data sharing and transparency** by improving how program data is collected, standardized, shared across governments and industry, and made accessible to the public.
- **Support greater administrative efficiency** by developing a single portal for all federal-only strategic initiatives programs and undertake an urgent review of those programs to identify cost savings, explore measures to reduce administrative burden, and secure efficiencies through alternative service delivery.



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