



Canadian Politics Update

Mandate Letters Released for Federal Cabinet Ministers

On December 13th, 2019, the Prime Minister released the mandate letters for the members of the federal cabinet. As in 2015, these letters provide the Canadian public with an overview of the new government's overall vision and approach to governing, as well as an indication of the specific policy files that will be areas of focus for each Minister.

[Read the full mandate letters.](#)

In reviewing the mandate letters, CPMA has noted a number of government initiatives that will be of particular interest to our members.

- **The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food will:**
 - Undertake a review of risk management programs, with a special focus on AgriStability.
 - Support the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade in identifying additional tools to help Canada's agricultural and agri-food businesses export their products and diversify into global markets.
 - Lead work across government to move forward with the new Food Policy for Canada introduced in Budget 2019.
- **The Minister of Health will:**
 - Promote healthy eating, including continuing work to introduce new restrictions on the commercial marketing of food and beverages to children and establishing new front-of-package labelling.
 - Work to ensure that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency makes timely science-based decisions to support the safe and sustainable use of effective pesticide products in Canada.
- **The Minister of Environment will:**
 - Implement the government's plan to ban harmful single-use plastic products and take steps toward eliminating plastic pollution in Canada. This includes working with provinces and territories to develop national targets, standards and regulations that will make companies that manufacture plastic products or sell items with plastic packaging responsible for collecting and recycling them.
 - Create a new Canada Water Agency to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean and well-managed.
- **The Minister of Transport will:**
 - Complete the Ports Modernization Review and work with the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities to invest in Canada's trade corridors.

- **The Minister of Finance will:**
 - Work with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food on tax measures to facilitate the intergenerational transfer of farms.

At the same time, certain industry priorities were not reflected in the mandate letters, including:

- The establishment of a deemed trust to provide financial protection for produce sellers
- A review of *Pest Control Products Act*, meant to be happening in 2020
- Specific mention of federal support for recycling infrastructure in relation to plastics
- The development and implementation of a federal agri-data strategy

CPMA places a significant focus on advocating for the needs and priorities of our members. We are looking forward to continuing this work with federal cabinet Ministers and all Parliamentarians, including at our upcoming [Farm to Plate event on February 25th](#).