

April 21, 2025

Dear Maeva,

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to speak on key priorities for Canada's fresh produce sector and share the Green Party of Canada's platform. We appreciate your continued advocacy.

Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Karine Cambron
Coordinator, Survey and Questionnaire Response Team
Green Party of Canada

1. Should you be elected, will your party support a strengthened food system and food security for all Canadians by adopting a whole-of-government agriculture and food production lens and making food production and access to food a whole-of-government priority in legislation, policy and crisis management?

Yes. We will make food a cross-government priority. Our plan supports regional food hubs, food sovereignty, and replacing imports with local food. We'll invest in urban agriculture, Indigenous food systems, and a national school food program. We will embed food access in crisis planning and shift subsidies from industrial agriculture to ecological farming. Local food will be prioritized in federal procurement. Our food policies are central to climate action, emissions reduction, and health equity. We see food as a public good, not a commodity.

2. Should your party form government, will you dedicate federal government resources to advance Canada's free and fair trade agenda, remove regulatory barriers impeding Canada's competitiveness in the global marketplace, and enable further expansion of mutual recognition efforts with other key trading countries?

We support fair trade—not just free trade. Our focus is on protecting Canada's economic independence. We'll reduce reliance on the U.S. and expand trade with climate-aligned partners. Regulatory reform should benefit communities, not corporations. We'll remove barriers for small producers and green businesses while rejecting harmful Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses and deregulation. We aim to build domestic industries and shift trade to reflect climate goals,

labour rights, and human rights. Canada must lead with principle, not give a free ride to transnationals.

3. Will your party commit to engaging in regular and ongoing consultation with our industry, and with the Trump Administration, to ensure a strong response to any trade action taken against Canada and to emphasize the important benefits for all three economies stemming from free and fair trade across North America?

We support regular consultation with Canadian industry. But we will not normalize Trump's economic bullying. His tariffs are attacks on our sovereignty. Our plan includes national resource reserves, support for Canadian businesses, and "economic NATO" alliances. We'll reduce U.S. dependence, invest in domestic supply chains, and tax U.S. corporate profiteers. Dialogue is necessary—but it won't stop us from defending Canada. We'll consult with industry, but we won't prioritize "free trade" if it puts Canada at risk. Sovereignty comes first.

4. Should you be elected, will your party prioritize the implementation of Bill C-280, the Financial Protection for Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Farmers Act, to provide critical financial protection to produce sellers?

We support the intent of Bill C-280 and the principle behind it—protecting fresh produce sellers from unfair losses. While the bill is not mentioned by name in our platform, our commitment to building resilient local food systems and supporting Canadian farmers aligns with its goals. Farmers deserve payment security, especially in the face of bankruptcy or trade disruption. We support policies that help producers stay financially stable, and we would look closely at implementing protections like those proposed in Bill C-280 as part of our broader plan to strengthen agriculture and food sovereignty.

5. Should your party form government, will you invest in the health of Canadians using a "Food as Medicine" approach, and advance measures promoting the Canada Food Guide recommendation to fill Half Your Plate with fruits and vegetables, including in public procurement and government programming?

Yes. We see food as a key part of health policy. We will align government food programs with the Canada Food Guide and shift public procurement toward local, organic, and plant-based meals. We support using food as medicine. Our national food program will prioritize fruits and vegetables. By investing in healthy diets now, we'll improve health outcomes and lower future healthcare costs. Food grown closer to home, with fewer chemicals, helps Canadians live longer, healthier lives.

6. Will your party support measures to reduce diet-related diseases and hunger and mitigate health care costs associated with food insecurity and poor nutrition?

Yes. Our plan tackles hunger and poor nutrition as public health crises. We will fund universal school meals, support a Guaranteed Livable Income, and reduce pesticide use. We will bring in a national food waste strategy and promote access to affordable, fresh produce. Our food policy is rooted in equity: everyone deserves nutritious meals, no matter their income. Better diets mean fewer chronic

illnesses and lower healthcare spending. Ending food insecurity is essential to justice and public health.

7. Should you be elected, will your party facilitate the timely delivery of funding and work with the provinces and territories to advance the development and implementation of the National School Food Program, and ensure that enhancing nutrition and promoting healthy eating practices, including through the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, are core objectives of the program?

Yes. The Green Party will implement a universal school food program to provide free, healthy meals using fresh, local, and culturally relevant ingredients. Promoting nutrition, especially fruits and vegetables, is central to our vision. While we don't name specific timelines, we support collaborative delivery through the Council of Canadian Governments—bringing all levels of government to the table. We'll ensure school meals reflect the Canada Food Guide and reinforce food as a human right. Every child should have access to good food every day.

8. Should your party form government, will you deliver sufficient, ongoing capital investment under the National Supply Chain Strategy and the National Trade Corridor Fund to enable trade and transportation infrastructure improvements, including the enhancement of cold chain infrastructure?

We support infrastructure that strengthens Canada's food systems. Our platform calls for new investment in food processing, storage, and distribution, especially at the regional level. While we don't name the National Supply Chain Strategy or National Trade Corridor Fund directly, our approach would naturally include cold chain upgrades as part of building food self-sufficiency. Ensuring food moves safely and efficiently from farm to table—especially perishable goods—is critical to food security, public health, and trade resilience. These investments would be ongoing and community-driven.

9. Will your party establish priority lanes at ports of entry and implement a dedicated Trusted Trader pilot program to further streamline the movement of essential and perishable products across the Canadian border?

The Green Party does not currently propose a dedicated Trusted Trader pilot or priority lanes at border ports. Our trade policy prioritizes Canadian food sovereignty and infrastructure over border formalities. That said, we support reducing delays for essential goods and would consider practical, fair measures to improve the movement of perishable goods—if they align with equity and environmental goals. Our focus is on investing in domestic processing, rail, and local distribution so Canada relies less on vulnerable or delayed imports.

10. Should you be elected, will your party implement measures to prioritize the movement of food and essential goods through ports of entry in the event of emergency events or disruptions, and work to address the root causes of labour disruptions impacting critical supply chain infrastructure?

Yes. In emergencies, food and essential goods must move without delay. We would prioritize these

movements through national planning and emergency preparedness reforms. Our National Civil Defence Corps and new National Emergency Management Agency would improve rapid response capacity. We also support stable labour relations rooted in fairness. Workers need strong protections, and supply chains need reliability. We won't undermine bargaining rights, but we will invest in systems that reduce disruption risks—like strong local food systems, fair wages, and long-term planning for resilience.

11. Should your party form government, will you implement a National Workforce Strategy to meet immediate labour needs and generate future interest in careers across the food supply chain through education, training and skills development?

Yes. We would support a national strategy to grow the food supply chain workforce. This includes free post-secondary education, skills training, and expanded youth employment programs. We'll create decent, well-paid jobs in farming and food processing, while also supporting transitions to regenerative agriculture. Migrant workers must have fair pay, rights, and a path to residency. We'll work with provinces and employers to develop a workforce that meets today's needs and inspires future careers in food production.

12. Will your party commit to preserving the distinction between the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) and other streams within the Temporary Foreign Worker program (TFWP), such as AgStream and the Low-Wage stream, and to establishing a permanent Recognized Employer Program under the TFWP?

We support better protections and fair treatment for all agricultural workers. But we do not commit to maintaining the current distinctions between SAWP and other streams. Instead, we want a full review of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, with a shift toward permanent residency pathways. All workers—regardless of stream—deserve safe housing, decent pay, and the right to change employers. We believe Canada's agricultural workforce should be built on fairness, not precarious status. Recognized employers should meet high labour standards.

13. Should you be elected, will your party commit to engaging with industry to drive North American and global conversations to align efforts, standards and systems to effectively achieve our sustainability goals?

Yes. We believe Canada should help lead global efforts toward sustainability. That includes working with industry to align standards, systems, and goals across North America and globally. We support carbon border adjustments, international climate finance, and trade reforms that promote climate action and equity. We also believe in fair partnerships and uplifting the Global South. Our vision of a green economy requires collaboration—at home and abroad. We will engage with industry to shape sustainable practices and ensure Canadian leadership reflects our environmental and social values.

14. Should your party form government, will you provide federal leadership and investment in harmonized waste collection, recycling and composting infrastructure across Canada?

Yes. We will provide strong federal leadership to modernize and harmonize waste collection,

recycling, and composting across Canada. Our plan includes expanding recycling capacity, investing in infrastructure for hazardous and organic waste, and enforcing Extended Producer Responsibility. We support a circular economy that reduces waste, creates jobs, and ensures goods are reused and recycled responsibly. National standards will reduce confusion, improve outcomes, and help all communities to participate in zero-waste systems.

15. Will your party create an enabling regulatory environment for new products, technologies and business practices to support and de-risk the adoption of more sustainable solutions, and ensure that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency is sufficiently resourced to fulfill core functions including pre-market applications, re-evaluations and minor use registrations?

Yes. We support a regulatory framework that encourages sustainable innovation while protecting people and the planet. We will strengthen environmental oversight and invest in green technologies. We aim to phase out synthetic pesticides and herbicides, which requires a strong, well-funded Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). The PMRA must be given the resources to assess alternatives, support minor-use approvals, and complete re-evaluations promptly. Safe pest control, sustainable farming, and public health depend on it. We'll make sure the agency can do its work.