



Promoting Canadian Produce through Global Trade

Federal Election 2021

TALKING POINTS:

When in doubt, think Connect (why is it important to YOU?), Contrast (what's missing?), Solve (how can the government/candidate help?)

- **Connect:** Free and fair international trade offers huge economic growth opportunity for Canadian fresh produce businesses and provides Canadians with access to safe and healthy fresh food options year-round.
- **Contrast:** A lack of harmonization in crop protection regulation, products, and residues, creates unnecessary and costly duplication and hinders the competitiveness of Canadian products in the international marketplace. At the same time, the high volume and perishability of fruits and vegetables means that longer dwell times at ports can not only delay delivery and increase costs for industry, but can also result in lost sales, product spoilage, and ultimately food waste.
- **Solve:** International standardization between government bodies, mutual recognition of food safety systems with our trading partners, and the smooth flow of our essential products across the Canadian border are critical not only to our sector's ongoing competitiveness and economic success, but also to supporting food security in communities across the country.

OUR ASKS:

1. Will your party dedicate federal government resources to advance Canada's free and fair trade agenda and enable further expansion of mutual recognition efforts with other key trading countries?
2. Will your party support measures to enhance government oversight of Canada's ports and to help businesses more seamlessly access international markets through our commercial border?

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

- **The fresh produce supply chain is highly integrated across the globe.** International standardization between government bodies is critical to the success of Canadian industry.
- Increasing market access and sustainability of the Canadian fresh fruit and vegetable industry requires mutual recognition of food safety systems, and international harmonization of crop protection regulation, products, and residues.
- Phytosanitary and other requirements that are not evidence-based act as a non-tariff barrier to trade.

- **The supply chain linkages of transportation, border access and ports of entry and exit are key to ensuring the smooth flow of our highly perishable and essential goods across our border.**