



Reducing Unnecessary and Problematic Plastics

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:** The fresh produce industry is deeply engaged in efforts to reduce and mitigate the use of plastics, while also ensuring that our products can continue to meet the shelf-life and food safety expectations of Canadian consumers.
- **Contrast:** Our sector is taking a leadership role in finding innovative solutions to mitigate plastic use that can also address our food safety and food waste challenges, but the lack of harmonized recycling collection in communities across the country poses a major barrier to our success.
- **Solve:** Federal leadership is needed to support an effective, evidence-based systems approach to reducing problematic plastics and build a robust circular economy across Canada.

OUR ASKS:

1. Will your party work closely with industry to take a systems approach to find solutions to reduce plastic waste that are evidence-based, and include a combination of education, innovation, and critical infrastructure investments in communities across Canada?
2. Will your party provide federal leadership and funding to the development of harmonized, efficient and cost-effective recycling collection within communities across Canada?

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

- **CPMA has deliberately taken a leadership role in this space.** Through our [CPMA Plastic Packaging Working Group](#) and partnership in the [Canada Plastics Pact](#), we are working to assist the produce industry in navigating the highly complex goal of utilizing plastic packaging in the most economically and environmentally responsible means possible.
- **We can find effective solutions by working together.** The Government of Canada can harness and build upon industry efforts to support an environment of innovation and collaboration to effectively reduce the use of unnecessary and problematic plastics.
- **Canada needs to address the challenge of fragmented collection systems across the country.** The current patchwork of systems does not effectively collect and recycle the materials currently in circulation that could be kept and utilized in the circular economy. Without this critical infrastructure in place, industry transitions to recyclable or compostable packaging materials will be rendered futile.