

## NDP Response: CPMA

- 1. Should you be elected, will your party commit to protecting Canadian produce sellers by creating a statutory deemed trust, similar to the U.S. Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act?***

An NDP Government will work with the Canadian Produce Marketing Association and other stakeholders to draft and put forward legislation to protect Canadian produce sellers by creating a statutory deemed trust. New Democrats recognize the need for agricultural sectors to have this protection, as recommended in multiple Parliamentary reports.

- 2. Should your party form government, will you work to provide reasonable and fair recognition for past efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement more environmentally sustainable practices?***

New Democrats are committed to taking climate leadership by setting ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The climate crisis is an urgent priority, and it calls on all of us to act decisively and to be accountable. We must work together to achieve these goals. Our plan will cut emissions while also creating new good jobs, clean our air and water, and create opportunities to build a stronger foundation for future generations. Unlike the Liberal or Conservative plans, we will ensure that the rewards of our prosperity go to ordinary people working hard to build a better future.

- 3. Will your party commit to providing federal government support for the National Index on Agri-food Performance and engage with stakeholders to achieve our common sustainability goals and secure Canada's position as a global leader in agri-food sustainability?***

A New Democrat government will commit to support the National Index on Agri-Food Performance and work with stakeholders on common sustainability goals.

- 4. Should you be elected, will your government commit to taking a holistic view of how supporting a sustainable agri-food industry complements environmental targets?***

New Democrats recognize that an effective food strategy must have a holistic approach – one that sees Canada take a leadership role in the environmentally sustainable production of our food.

- 5. Will your party commit to developing a long-term strategy for sustainable water management for all Canadians, including ensuring a secure source of water to support Canadian agriculture?***

Too many people in Canada do not have access to clean drinking water in their homes or places of work. Further to that, Western Canada has experienced historic droughts that have hurt livelihoods. A New Democrat government would work on a long-term strategy for sustainable water management that would support Canadian agriculture.

- 6. Should your party form government, will you commit to working 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?***

New Democrats have led the way on reducing plastic pollution and banning single-use plastics in Canada. To reduce waste in our landfills and communities, we will continue efforts to ban single-use plastics while protecting workers in this sector by supporting the transition of production facilities into new products. We will help municipalities improve their waste management and recycling systems and support improved standards for what products can be labelled as recyclable.

***7. Should you be elected, will your party commit to providing federal leadership and funding to the development of harmonized, efficient and cost-effective recycling collection within communities across Canada, a commitment of utmost importance in supporting a circular economy?***

New Democrats are committed to providing federal leadership and funding to help communities improve their waste management and recycling systems, and support improved standards for what products can be labelled as recyclable. New legislation will also ban the export of plastic waste and help reduce electronic waste by removing unnecessary restrictions preventing people from repairing their devices.

***8. Will your party recognize the ongoing nature of increased costs growers are assuming due to the COVID-19 pandemic by committing to measures to help growers manage costs associated with housing reforms and health and safety requirements?***

New Democrats will support growers adapt to the increased costs of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as help the agricultural sector adapt to climate-induced weather changes and other impacts of the climate crisis.

***9. Will your party commit to maintain access to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy until the Public Health Agency of Canada has declared that the COVID-19 pandemic has ended?***

New Democrats are committed to being there for workers throughout the pandemic. We are committed to ensuring that those who need help receive it right through the end of the pandemic, especially for those in the hardest-hit sectors.

***10. Should you be elected, how will your party work to improve service standards and processing times for applications under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program and the Agricultural Stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, including by working with source countries and implementing measures to further streamline the collection of biometrics as well as visa and work permit application processes?***

Temporary foreign workers have faced a number of challenges throughout the pandemic, including concerns over the processing of their work permits, slow processing times, and issues with the collection of biometrics. We would continue to support efforts to digitize the application process, but unfortunately it is not expected to complete for another 5 years while backlogs remain at critical levels due to the pandemic with no end in sight. In the meantime, additional resources and personnel are needed to lower processing times. Given the exceptional circumstances, Confirmation of PRs and medicals that have expired during the pandemic should all be automatically renewed, instead of having IRCC double up on hundreds of thousands of documents that have been approved recently, a process that IRCC officials have called “labour intensive.” This would help free up additional resources to focus on tackling IRCC backlogs and improve processing times. We have also advocated for IRCC and CBSA to put in place a process for biometric collection on arrival to Canada in order to simplify the process.

**11. Will your party include a commitment to provide ongoing financial support to achieve the targets of the Food Policy for Canada and to support the work of the Food Policy Advisory Council?**

New Democrats are committed to working with farmers and food producers to develop a National Food Policy that will make our food systems stronger all across the country. This includes food labelling and traceability, so that Canadians can be confident in the food they're consuming.

**12. Should you be elected, how will your party commit to supporting measures promoting the Canada Food Guide recommendation to fill Half Your Plate with fruits and vegetables?**

New Democrats believe that everyone in Canada should have access to nutritious food. We will partner with provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous communities to work towards a national school nutrition program that will give every child in Canada access to healthy food and the food literacy skills to make healthy choices for life. We will also support local food systems by connecting Canadians to farmers with initiatives like local food hubs, community supported agriculture, and networks to increase the amount of food that is sold, processed and consumed in local and regional markets.

**13. Is your party committed to providing federal funding and resources to support the reduction of food loss and waste across the supply chain?**

New Democrats are committed to putting in place a food waste strategy to reduce the huge amounts of food that currently go to waste in Canada.

**14. What is your party's position on a Food Industry Code of Practice? Will your party support an industry-led, collaborative, and inclusive process to develop a Food Industry Code of Practice that meets the unique needs of Canada's food system?**

New Democrats are open to the idea of a Food Industry Code of Practice. We believe that it's time for a government that working on the side of Canadian farmers, producers, and farm families, and want to ensure that regional needs and priorities are invested in, young and new farmers are supported, and that rural livelihoods are good and sustainable.

**15. Should you be elected, how will your party commit to providing innovation funding and whole-of-government support specific to the fresh produce supply chain, to bolster the industry and foster our ongoing competitiveness?**

New Democrats know that fresh produce is vital to the agriculture sector and to our economy. As part of our Canadian Food Strategy, New Democrats will take a whole-of-government approach to address regional needs and priorities, invest in communities, and fully protect supply-management. We will also introduce a payment protection program for produce growers and take immediate steps to restore protection for growers selling to the US.

**16. How will your party support small-and medium-sized businesses making the shift to digital and ensure sufficient, dedicated funding to support the rapid expansion of high-speed internet infrastructure and cell phone service coverage so that all Canadians and Canadian businesses have access to the digital infrastructure they need?**

New Democrats know it's a challenge to grow a business without modern communications infrastructure. We will make sure that high-speed broadband and cell phone infrastructure is available to connect farmers and rural communities to the services and tools they need, no matter where in the country they are. We will make sure every Canadian has access to affordable, reliable high-speed broadband within four years, and create a Crown Corporation to ensure the delivery of these services to communities.

***17. Is your party committed to delivering sufficient, dedicated federal funding to invest in rural infrastructure, including roads, energy, and service infrastructure, such as waste management?***

New Democrats are committed to delivering long-term, dedicated, sufficient funds to assist rural communities build roads, energy, and other types of service infrastructure.

***18. Should you be elected, how 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?***

New Democrats know that trade is essential to our economic success, and we expect our trade deals to be fair, respect human rights, protect the environment, and put the interests of Canadian workers and communities first. We're committed to defending Canadian workers in trade negotiations, protecting supply management, and standing up against unfair tariffs.

***19. Is your party committed to supporting measures to enhance government oversight of Canada's ports and to help businesses more seamlessly access international markets through our commercial border?***

To help Canadian small business step out on the world stage, a New Democrat government will streamline access to government export services and make it simpler to break into foreign markets.

***20. Should you be elected, will your party commit to undertake a comprehensive review of the regulatory modernization process to allow the government to better facilitate thorough stakeholder participation, to better understand the administrative or other costs of proposed changes, and to develop effective regulations that meet the needs of both industry and the Canadian public without stifling economic competitiveness?***

New Democrats are committed to ensuring regulations work for food producers and for all people in Canada. To better support small and medium-sized businesses, we'll provide a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance – freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business. New Democrats are open to a comprehensive review of the regulatory modernization process.