



PRESS RELEASE

CPMA responds to Federal Budget 2022

April 7, 2022 (Montreal, QC) – The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) is pleased to see that Canada’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and measures to increase Canada’s competitiveness are continued areas of focus in Federal Budget 2022.

Budget 2022 includes a number of commitments that were recommended by CPMA in its pre-budget submissions to the government, such as:

- short- and long-term initiatives to address labour shortages across our sector, including through a Trusted Employer Model and improved service standards under the Temporary Foreign Worker program,
- measures to support the transition to more sustainable agricultural practices and build a circular economy,
- a commitment to the development of a National School Food Policy, and significant investments to support supply chain projects, including through the National Trade Corridors Fund.

“The fresh produce supply chain supports 249,000 jobs in Canada and has shown incredible resilience during the pandemic keeping fresh produce available to Canadians,” said CPMA President Ron Lemaire. “As we navigate the impacts of food inflation, we are pleased to see support from the government to ensure the continued resiliency and future growth of the sector.”

CPMA is disappointed that the implementation of a financial protection mechanism for produce sellers was again not included in the federal budget. CPMA has consistently reiterated the importance of this tool as an opportunity to address gaps in market stability, financial protection, trade and food security, with no cost to the government. We continue our engagement with the government and are hoping to see support for this issue in the future.

“We are currently hosting the fresh produce supply chain at CPMA’s 96th Annual Convention and Trade Show and while the industry continues to innovate, thrive and sustainably provide fresh produce to Canadians, the risk to the industry is real without a financial protection mechanism in place,” said Lemaire. “This mechanism will provide added stability to our sector to ensure Canadians continue to have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.”

CPMA will be reviewing Budget 2022 in more detail after our Convention to assess its specific implications for the fresh fruit and vegetable industry.

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About the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA):

Based in Ottawa, Ontario, CPMA is a not-for-profit organization that represents a diverse membership made up of every segment of the produce industry supply chain who are responsible for 90% of the fresh fruit and vegetable sales in Canada. CPMA is fortunate to represent a sector that is both a significant economic driver for communities and that also improves the health and productivity of Canadians.