



PRESS RELEASE

CPMA responds to Federal Budget 2023

March 29, 2023 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) is encouraged to see that addressing the impacts of inflation and supporting a National Supply Chain Strategy are continued areas of focus in Federal Budget 2023.

Budget 2023 includes a number of commitments that were recommended by CPMA in its advocacy efforts and pre-budget submissions to the government, such as:

- A National Supply Chain Strategy, informed by the recommendations of the National Supply Chain Task Force report, including the establishment of a Supply Chain Office;
- Measures to improve government oversight of Canadian ports and marine shipping to reduce congestion and increase supply chain efficiency;
- Federal investments in rural infrastructure, including through funding for a housing strategy and a top-up to the Local Food Infrastructure Fund;
- Funding to establish the Canada Water Agency as a standalone entity to support the development of a long-term sustainable water strategy for Canada.

“The fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain is a major contributor to Canada’s GDP, and to job creation in rural and urban communities from coast to coast to coast. We also provide Canadian families with safe and nutritious food that is crucial to supporting their health and well-being,” said CPMA President Ron Lemaire. “With the rising cost of food top of mind for Canadians, we hope the federal government will leverage Budget 2023 to make food production and access to food a whole-of-government priority, and support the continued resiliency and future growth of the sector.”

However, CPMA was 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. The establishment of a financial protection tool was also among the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance recommendations for Federal Budget 2023.

“The impacts of the pandemic, supply chain disruptions and geopolitical and economic volatility have put the produce sector in a more vulnerable position without a financial protection mechanism in place,” said Lemaire. “We are hopeful that all parties will support Bill C-280, the *Financial Protection for Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Farmers Act*, when it comes before the House of Commons in the coming weeks.”

CPMA will be reviewing Budget 2023 in more detail in the coming days to assess its specific implications for the fresh fruits 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.