



LIBERAL
Ken Robertson



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PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA
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No responses were submitted

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What concrete steps would your party take to build a more resilient Canadian food system that can withstand geopolitical impacts and climate shocks?

Canada imports over half its food supply, while exporting close to half its domestic production—sometimes importing it again as manufactured products. This interdependency leaves us vulnerable to trade wars, global supply chain disruptions, and climate-related crop failures abroad. Recently, escalating trade tensions, such as U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods and Canada’s retaliatory tariffs, have raised concerns about the affordability and availability of fruits and vegetables.



NDP
Phaedra Idzan

New Democrats are committed to supporting and growing the Canadian agrifood and farming sector. Our government will:

- Protect supply management for farmers and consumers in all trade negotiations.
- Diversify international markets for Canadian agricultural exports to reduce reliance on the United States.
- Introduce a payment protection program for produce growers and take immediate steps to restore protection for growers selling to the United States.
- Invest in resilience projects in farming communities to make sure that they’re ready to respond to climate change.
- Establish clear food labelling and traceability rules, with accompanying public education – so Canadians can feel confident that they are purchasing safe and healthy food for their families.
- Invest in public agricultural research and plant breeding to support innovation and provide direct economic benefit to farmers.
- Invest in high-speed broadband and cell phone infrastructure to connect farmers and rural communities to the technology, tools and services they need
- Respond to the unique challenges facing young and new farmers, including through supports for succession planning.



FOOD & AGRICULTURE: KAMLOOPS–SHUSWAP–CENTRAL ROCKIES

What concrete steps would your party take to build a more resilient Canadian food system that can withstand geopolitical impacts and climate shocks?



GREEN PARTY

Owen Madden

Canada's current food system is deeply vulnerable — not only to global supply chain disruptions, climate change, and geopolitical tensions, but also to the concentration of wealth and control in the hands of a few large corporations. We see the impacts here at home, where the cost of food is skyrocketing, local farms are closing, and rural communities are struggling to maintain independence and resilience.

As a farmer myself, I know how frustrating it is to watch our country export high-quality food only to import processed versions of the same product at a premium. We need a food system that serves Canadians first — one that strengthens local food security, supports farmers, and prepares us for future disruptions.

The Green Party's approach to this issue is rooted in building regional food resilience, supporting small- and medium-scale producers, and shifting our priorities away from industrial export-focused agriculture toward food sovereignty.

Here are a few of the concrete steps we would take:

Regional Food Infrastructure Investment: We would invest in local food hubs, cooperative processing facilities, and regional distribution networks so communities can grow, store, and process more of their own food. This means supporting community-run cold storage, grain mills, dairy processors, and butcheries that reduce reliance on centralized supply chains.

Farm-to-Fork Supply Chains: We would create incentives and grants for local procurement by public institutions like schools, hospitals, and long-term care homes. This keeps public food dollars in the local economy while strengthening shorter, more reliable supply chains.

Support for Regenerative and Climate-Smart Agriculture: A climate-resilient food system needs to work with nature, not against it. We would scale up support for regenerative practices that build soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce dependence on fossil fuel-based inputs — practices already used by many small-scale and organic farmers.

Diversifying Crops and Food Sources: We would support research and incentives for a more diverse agricultural system — one that includes climate-resilient crops, perennial agriculture, and Indigenous foodways. The goal is to reduce our dependence on a few global commodities and strengthen our own biodiversity.

Breaking Up Monopolies in the Food System: A resilient system can't be controlled by a handful of seed companies, grocers, or processors. We would strengthen antitrust enforcement to ensure fair prices for farmers and consumers alike.





FOOD & AGRICULTURE: KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP-CENTRAL ROCKIES

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(Owen Madden, Green Party Continued)

Trade Justice, Not Just Free Trade: We need trade policies that prioritize food security and environmental sustainability over corporate profits. That includes protecting supply management for dairy and eggs, and negotiating trade deals that support local food production, not undercut it.

In the Kamloops-Shuswap-Central Rockies riding, we have an opportunity to model what a strong regional food economy could look like. From our ranchers and orchardists to our market gardeners and Indigenous food harvesters, there's so much knowledge and potential here. Let's build a food system that feeds our communities, pays farmers fairly, and holds up in a crisis.



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How will your party support communities and food insecure households so that people can access adequate, affordable, and culturally appropriate food? What tangible policies will you put in place?

Nearly 1 in 4 Canadians live in food-insecure households. Black and Indigenous families are disproportionately affected, facing food insecurity rates of 40%, a result of structural racism. Food insecurity is strongly tied to poverty, which affects all areas of a person's life and puts strain on local and national supports.



NDP

Phaedra Idzan

It is a fact that food bank usage is at its highest level since 1989; that due to high grocery prices, 1 in 5 Canadians is skipping meals; and in 2023, the grocery sector made a whopping \$6 billion in profit. In response to this, a New Democrat government will:

- Scrap the GST on grocery meals, diapers, kids' clothes and more.
- Implement a price cap on essential items so working families can put food on the table for less.
- End the free ride big grocery chains are getting by bringing in more price transparency, stopping shrinkflation and increasing fines for price fixing.
- Support more competition in the grocery sector by helping small and medium grocers, including community-driven food cooperatives, get into the market and set up shop.
- Change the Nutrition North program to send food subsidies directly to people, not large corporations.



GREEN PARTY

Owen Madden

Food insecurity is not just about hunger — it's about dignity, justice, and whether people can live full, healthy lives. When 1 in 4 Canadians — and 4 in 10 Black and Indigenous households — face food insecurity, it's a clear sign that our economic and social systems are failing too many people.

As someone who farms and advocates for food justice in my community, I believe deeply in the right of every person to access adequate, healthy, and culturally appropriate food. It's not enough to rely on food banks or short-term charity. We need bold policies that address the root causes: poverty, systemic racism, and the erosion of local food systems.



FOOD & AGRICULTURE: KAMLOOPS–SHUSWAP–CENTRAL ROCKIES

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(Owen Madden, Green Party Continued)

The Green Party of Canada is committed to building a future where food insecurity is not inevitable — where communities are supported, equity is prioritized, and everyone can afford to eat well.

Here are the tangible steps we would take:

Guaranteed Livable Income: A key driver of food insecurity is low income. The Green Party would implement a Guaranteed Livable Income that ensures every Canadian has a financial floor to stand on, regardless of employment status. This would lift millions out of poverty and eliminate the impossible trade-offs between paying rent, feeding kids, or filling prescriptions.

Universal Access to Food Through Community-Based Programs: We support expanding community food centres, school meal programs, and urban agriculture projects that are developed and led by local communities. These programs should prioritize cultural appropriateness, particularly for Indigenous, Black, and newcomer communities. Everyone deserves food that reflects their identity and traditions. We would invest in Indigenous-led food sovereignty initiatives, supporting hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and funding traditional food systems and restoration of ancestral lands.

Fair Wages and Decent Work: Food insecurity is highest among people working in low-wage, precarious jobs — often in the food sector itself. We would raise the federal minimum wage and enforce decent working conditions to ensure no one working full time is going hungry.

Affordable Housing and Transit: Food insecurity is also tied to unaffordable housing and limited transportation options, especially in rural and remote areas. We would build more non-market and cooperative housing, and improve rural transit so people can access both food and work more easily.

Local Food Systems and Urban Agriculture: We would provide federal support for urban agriculture, farmers markets, and community gardens, especially in low-income neighbourhoods. Local food is often more affordable and better suited to community needs when supported properly.

We also need to confront systemic racism in healthcare, education, and employment, which continues to push Black and Indigenous people into higher rates of poverty and food insecurity. That means listening to and funding grassroots groups already doing this work, and ensuring that food policy is intersectional, anti-racist, and inclusive by design.

Food is a human right. A healthy food system must start with justice — not just calories.



3

How will you encourage the next generation to take up farming, while noting that the financial risks that farmers have always taken are now compounded by price pressures and massively unpredictable and unfavourable weather patterns?

Changing weather patterns are already disrupting food production in Canada, with droughts, floods, and extreme weather events becoming more frequent. The average age of Canadian farmers is 56, and new farmers face skyrocketing land costs and limited access to capital. There is a rise in inequality among farmers, with a few making lots of money, while many barely hang on or can't get started. Canada's agriculture sector produces billions of dollars in wealth every year but most of that is captured by fertilizer and seed sellers, fuel companies, land speculators, and grain buyers. An economically just agriculture sector would need to be completely restructured.



NDP

Phaedra Idzan

The NDP plans to address the specific challenges faced by young and new farmers by providing support for succession planning, ensuring that family farms can be passed on to the next generation. Additionally, the NDP will invest in climate adaptation and disaster preparedness as part of its broader Climate Crisis policies, with these initiatives designed to benefit farmers and other communities impacted by climate change.



GREEN PARTY

Owen Madden

As a farmer I live these challenges every day. I know firsthand how tough it is for young people to start farming — the costs are enormous, the risks are rising, and the weather is becoming more unpredictable year after year.

At the same time, we know that farmers are aging. The average Canadian farmer is 56 years old, and many don't have succession plans. If we want food security, rural resilience, and climate solutions, we need to support a new generation of diverse, innovative farmers — especially those committed to regenerative and sustainable practices.

The Green Party of Canada has a plan to restructure the food system from the ground up so it works for people, not just corporations. Here's how we would support new farmers and build a fairer, climate-resilient agriculture sector:



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(Owen Madden, Green Party continued)

Access to Land and Capital: The biggest barrier for new farmers is land. Speculation and consolidation have driven prices through the roof. We would establish a Farmland Access Fund to support new and young farmers — especially those from underrepresented communities — in accessing land through long-term leases, co-operative models, and community land trusts. We'd also introduce low-interest loans and grants for new farmers, with incentives for climate-friendly practices like agroecology, organic growing, and rotational grazing. These practices not only build soil health but help reduce input costs, making farms more economically sustainable.

Mentorship and Training: Getting started in farming is daunting. We'd create a National Apprenticeship and Mentorship Program that matches experienced farmers with newcomers — passing on practical knowledge while creating community. This would include specific supports for Indigenous land-based education and knowledge-sharing rooted in traditional practices. We would also expand funding to agriculture and trades training programs in rural colleges and high schools, and invest in agricultural incubators in communities across the country.

Fair Markets and Local Processing: Farming isn't viable if farmers can't make a fair income. Right now, too much of the wealth generated in agriculture is extracted by multinational seed, fertilizer, and processing companies. We'd invest in local and regional food infrastructure, including butcheries, grain mills, and cold storage. We'd help small and mid-sized farmers form cooperatives to collectively process, market, and distribute their food — keeping more value in local hands.

Climate Adaptation Supports: Farming is becoming riskier due to climate change. We need to treat that risk seriously. We'd expand climate-resilient crop insurance, fund on-farm water conservation and soil health programs, and support research into climate-adaptive crops and farming techniques. We would also push for a transition away from synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuel-dependent equipment, offering financial support for farmers making that change.

Equity in Farming: Farming must be made more accessible to women, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, racialized individuals, and Indigenous communities. That means targeted supports and land-back initiatives, and ending discriminatory lending practices within agricultural financing systems.

If we want a resilient food system, we need a new generation of farmers — and we need to set them up to succeed. That means shifting resources from corporate agribusiness toward people, land, and community.



4

What steps will you take, if elected, to make sure that the workers who grow, process, transport, cook, serve, sell and deliver our food all have decent pay and conditions?

From farmers to truck drivers to grocery store workers to restaurant workers to delivery workers, our food chain is held together by low-wage workers, many of whom are migrants who face difficult working conditions and lack pathways to permanent residency. Growing food needs to be valued as respectable work—otherwise there will continue to be incentives to mistreat workers, rely on temporary workers, and underpay this work.



NDP

Phaedra Idzan

While minimum-wage laws and workplace safety regulations are clearly important, the primary need is for legislation that makes it easier for workers to unionize. Empowering workers in this way would allow them to address the issues they find most urgent.



GREEN PARTY

Owen Madden

Workers who grow, process, transport, sell, and serve our food are essential to the system but often face low wages, unsafe conditions, and limited rights. Many of these workers, particularly migrant laborers, face exploitation, yet they remain crucial to our economy. The Green Party is committed to improving wages, working conditions, and establishing a path to permanent residency for migrant food system workers through actions such as:

Supporting Migrant Workers: Migrant workers are an essential part of our food system, yet they often face exploitation and insecurity. The Green Party proposes creating a clear pathway to permanent residency for these workers. By doing so, they can contribute more effectively to the workforce while benefiting from access to healthcare, education, and social services. This will also help address the challenges faced by employers in attracting stable labor. We also plan to reform the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to enhance protections, ensuring that workers are treated fairly and with respect.

Improving Working Conditions: The Green Party is committed to improving health and safety standards for workers across the food chain, including farmers, truck drivers, grocery workers, and restaurant staff. We will ensure that safety regulations are enforced to prevent accidents and exposure to dangerous chemicals. In addition, we aim to provide greater access to mental health support for workers in high-stress food system jobs.



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(Owen Madden, Green Party continued)

Supporting Ethical Food Systems: The Green Party is dedicated to supporting ethical food production practices through fair trade policies. We will ensure that farmers and food workers receive a fair share of profits and work toward a more resilient and sustainable food system. Supporting fair trade helps build stronger local economies and reduces the exploitation of workers at home and abroad.

By improving conditions, offering pathways to residency, and supporting fair trade, the Green Party will ensure that the workers who feed us are treated fairly and paid for their essential work. It's time to ensure fair compensation and respect for all workers in our food system.

