How Government Policies Affect Your Grocery Bill—and Canadian Farms



The policies set by the Canadian government ripple through the entire food system, affecting how food is grown, processed, transported, and priced. At the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, we're working to ensure those decisions support both farmers and consumers.

Here's how government policy affects your food, and what the Canadian Federation of Agriculture is recommending to help.

1. Regulations Can Help or Hinder Food Security
Canadian farmers depend on innovations in fertilizers, seeds, and other farm inputs to improve the sustainability and efficiency of their operations. At the same time, farmers benefit from Canada's strong health and safety regulations which ensure the safety of these products. But when regulations are slow, misaligned, or unclear, it can delay access to these cutting-edge products, or even prevent them from coming to Canada altogether, which drives up costs while reducing farmers resilience and productivity.

Our recommendation: Align regulations with a growth-oriented agenda that supports Canada's food security. That means streamlining regulatory processes, reducing undue administrative burden, and recognizing trusted international reviews to speed up access to essential agriculture tools, reducing duplicative efforts while still protecting health and the environment.

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2. Infrastructure Investments Must Include Agriculture
Canada's new $5-billion Trade Diversification Corridor Fund is a major opportunity to improve how goods move across the country and to global markets. If Canada's agri-food system isn't

prioritized for these investments, Canada will miss a pivotal opportunity to invest in Canadian food security through more resilient supply chains.

Our recommendation: Ensure the fund supports Canadian agriculture by consulting with stakeholders across agriculture and agri-food value chains to invest in projects that help farmers secure new and existing markets, both at home and abroad.

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3. Labour Disruptions Hurt Everyone
Strikes and labour disputes in key sectors like transportation can delay food shipments and damage Canada's reputation as a reliable trading partner. In 2024 both railways nearly went on strike simultaneously, which could have had disastrous impacts not only for farmers but consumers across the country.

Our recommendation: Engage with Canadians to modernize labour laws and create faster, clearer processes for resolving disputes. Identify the root causes of these disruptions to alleviate the factors that cause them.

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4. Protecting Farmland Is Protecting Our Future
Once farmland is developed, it cannot be recovered. Once it's gone, it's gone for good. As Canada races to invest in new nation-building infrastructure projects, we must ensure these critically important projects do not undermine Canadian food security by paving over prime agricultural land.

Our recommendation: Require Agricultural Impact Assessments for all federal projects to assess their implications on farmland and food security, in line with environmental assessments that are already required.

Why This Matters to You
Every one of these issues affects the price, quality, and availability of food in Canada. They also impact the financial health of our farms. By supporting smart, farmer-focused policies, we can build a more resilient food system, one that keeps shelves stocked, prices fair, and farms thriving.