



CFA PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW OF 2019 NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

SUMMARY NOTES:

The NDP platform places significant emphasis on the National Food Policy as a means of addressing a wide array of issues, through a whole-of-government approach, noting the potential to address traceability, labelling, and develop a food waste strategy, amongst others. Affordability is a clear focus, through commitments regarding right to repair and access to rural broadband, on a more ambitious timeline than the 10-year plan laid out by the current government.

Farmer mental health and financial protection for produce sellers are also commitments outlined in the platform, however there is no reference to ongoing trade disruptions or the need to reform Business Risk Management programming. In terms of labour, the platform references increasing pathways to permanency for all workers, but lacks details on how this would be achieved.

The NDP join the Liberals in committing support to the transition to land-based closed-containment aquaculture systems, while committing to supporting Canadian seafood at home and abroad. However, there are no details on the nature of this support.

On trade, the NDP platform commits to defense and support of supply management, but does not commit to preventing further concessions in future trade agreements, instead noting a commitment to trade reciprocity in future agreements. Furthermore, while the platform notes the importance of regulatory services, it does not address the continued emergence of non-tariff trade barriers with trading partners in existing trade agreements or continued circumvention of Tariff Rate Quotas.

On transportation, the platform notes a commitment to ensure farmers receive fair, affordable, and efficient rail transportation, but does not provide specifics as to what this implies. For more detailed notes on the NDP platform, please see the table below.

	New Democratic Party of Canada - 2019 Platform	CFA Notes
<u>Agriculture</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Democrats have a plan for a Canadian Food Strategy that will take a whole-of-government approach to address regional needs and priorities by investing in our agricultural communities, supporting young and new farmers and taking steps to ensure that rural livelihoods are good and sustainable. • To keep Canadian agriculture on the cutting edge of knowledge and innovation, and provide direct economic benefit to our farmers, New Democrats will invest in public agricultural research and data collection. • We'll also make sure that you have the right to repair electronic devices and other products at affordable prices, expanding consumer choice, and cutting down on waste. • We'll also make it easier for the family business to be passed on to future generations, with new legislation to end the unfair tax treatment of family transfers of small businesses. • We know that supporting our local food systems is essential to ensuring that Canadians have access to healthy, affordable food. We'll work to connect 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. • New Democrats will also work together with farmers and food producers to develop a National Food Policy, making our food systems stronger all across the country – including food labelling and traceability, so that Canadians can be confident in what they're purchasing to put on their family's plate. We'll also work to put in place a food waste strategy to reduce the huge amounts of food that currently go to waste in Canada. • Mental health matters, and too many Canadian farmers are living with high levels of stress, anxiety and depression. We can do more to provide targeted help – and a New Democrat government will bring together farmers and the provinces to develop a national strategy to address mental health challenges 	<p>The NDP platform focuses significant attention on the potential for a National Food Policy to address an array of issues from regional needs, to labelling and traceability, and would include a dedicated food waste strategy as well.</p> <p>The NDP also commit to working with farmers and the provinces to develop a national strategy to address agricultural mental health challenges.</p> <p>The platform does commit to maintaining the right to repair, but does not specify if this applies to agricultural equipment.</p> <p>References are made to addressing unfair tax treatment of family farms, however there aren't any details as to what this pertains to.</p> <p>The NDP platform is also the only platform released to date that commits to introducing payment protection programming for produce growers and restoring PACA protections for growers selling into the United States.</p>

	<p>facing farmers, and to ensure that farmers can get the help they need, when they need it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our fresh fruit and vegetable producers grow healthy, nutritious food for Canadian families and they support local economies across the country. Many of them also depend on the ability to export their products to buyers in the U.S., but without a reciprocal payment protection program in place, the financial risks of exporting can be too high. That’s why New Democrats will introduce a payment protection program for produce growers and take immediate steps to restore protection for growers selling to the U.S. under the <i>Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act</i>. 	
<p><u>Infrastructure</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Democrat government will focus on improving access to in-person services in Northern and rural communities. • We’ll work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous communities to grow affordable transit services for rural areas. • A New Democrat government will invest in regional economic development agencies and provide economic support for rural areas to invest in job creation in areas like tourism and community development. • Expanding cell coverage and delivering reliable, affordable broadband internet to every community in Canada is vital to the economic future of rural Canada and remote communities. But it has been ignored by successive governments for far too long. That’s why we believe that we need to act urgently to close the digital divide now, not ten years from now as the Liberal government proposed. We are committed to making sure that every community in Canada has access to high-speed internet without delay. • It’s a challenge to grow a business without modern communications infrastructure. That’s why New Democrats will make sure that high-speed broadband and cell phone infrastructure is available to connect our farmers and rural communities to the services and tools they need, no matter where in the country they are. Rural Canadians should be as connected to markets, opportunities, and each other as anyone who lives in urban Canada. 	<p>The NDP platform commits to expanding affordable broadband internet access to every community in Canada on a more urgent basis than the current 10-year plan put in place by the current government.</p> <p>More generally, the NDP platform commits to improving access to in-person services for remote rural communities.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in rural Canada deserve better access to services – and the future of our rural communities depends on those services being available. That’s why a New Democrat government will focus on improving access to in-person services in Northern and rural communities. • Many Northern, rural, and remote communities are working hard to retain families, attract workers, and stop out-migration, but they can’t do it alone. That’s why New Democrats will put in place a new tax credit for graduates to work in designated rural and Northern communities, and make it easier for employers to hire and retain the workers they need. 	
<p><u>Trade</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Democrat government will streamline access to government export services and make it simpler to break into foreign markets. We’ll also provide small- and medium-sized businesses with a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance - freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business. • We’ll also ensure that rail transportation treats farmers fairly and helps them get their products to market efficiently and affordably. • Supply management protects our family farms, rural communities, and hundreds of thousands of jobs. New Democrats are committed to fully protecting supply management and ensuring reciprocity in all trade negotiations, and supporting our supply managed sectors as they innovate and grow. • We’ll make sure that farmers are fully compensated for the losses they have incurred in Liberal and Conservative trade negotiations, and we’ll defend Canadian agricultural products like canola from unfair retaliation in overseas markets. • New Democrats support fair trade that broadens opportunity in all areas of the country while protecting our industries and upholding labour standards, environmental protections and human rights. That’s why we’ll always defend Canadian workers in trade negotiations, protect supply management and stand up against unfair tariffs. 	<p>The NDP platform commits to helping industries exploit new opportunities in new and existing trade agreements through access to government export services, which is important. However, it does not specifically address regulatory alignment in current and future agreements. This is essential, as is the elimination of non-tariff trade barriers.</p> <p>With regard to transportation, the NDP platform suggests it will ensure rail transportation treats farmers family and helps them get product to market efficiently and affordably. However, this commitment lacks specificity, as farmers have called for a full costing review of grain rail transportation costs and a commitment that all legislation, regulation, implementation and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A New Democrat government will also do more to defend Canadian workers and communities from unfair trading practices. We will modernize Canada’s trade remedy system and make sure that trade unions have full standing in trade cases and the ability to initiate trade disputes, as is the case in other countries. 	<p>compliance will emulate a transportation system open to competition.</p> <p>The NDP platform outlines defense and support of supply management, committing to ensuring reciprocity in all trade negotiations. The platform does not commit to making no further concessions in future trade agreements. Mitigation, through monetary support, for past concessions is welcome and necessary. However, without a commitment to avoid future concessions, this could see these industries’ markets continually eroded over time.</p> <p>Similarly, there is no reference to eliminating all circumvention of current TRQs.</p>
<p><u>Labour/ Immigration</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need all kinds of workers in Canada – and if someone is good enough to come and work here, then there should be a path for them to stay permanently. • A New Democrat government will make sure that our immigration policies and levels meet Canada’s labour force needs and recognize people’s experiences, contributions, and ties to Canada. We will work with the provinces to address gaps in settlement services and improve foreign credentials recognition. • Recognizing that a shortage of workers is a major barrier for many small businesses operating in rural areas, we’ll make important new investments in training Canadians and boost support to traditionally underemployed groups, ensuring that they can access good jobs that pay a fair wage. 	<p>The NDP commit to expanding pathways to permanent residency for all workers, regardless of skill level, but lacks details on how this would be accomplished and does not differentiate between seasonal and year-round workers.</p>

Aquaculture

- To keep the benefits of the fishery local, New Democrats will work towards a community-based terminal fishery system on the west coast. On the east coast, we'll work to protect, enshrine, and enforce the government's owner-operator and fleet separation policies, while ensuring that our small craft harbours get the upgrades they need for safety and resilience to climate change.
- In order to protect **wild salmon** on the Pacific coast, we will fully implement the recommendations of the Cohen Commission and work with the province of British Columbia and First Nations to support the transition to land-based **closed-containment** systems. On the Atlantic coast, we'll ensure that resource allocations in the fishery are guided by the principles of adjacency, historic dependence and sustainability, while also respecting Indigenous rights.
- To help consumers make healthy choices and to **combat seafood fraud**, a New Democrat government will put in place stronger labelling rules and a Boat to Plate traceability standard for Canadian seafood products – and we will support the marketing of quality Canadian seafood at home and around the world.
- When it comes to sustainability, New Democrats recognize that the wellbeing of our communities is reliant upon the health of our marine and freshwater ecosystems. That's why we will invest in **habitat restoration** and the rebuilding of fish stocks, as well as in strengthening our response to oil spills and derelict vessels to better protect our coasts. At the same time, we will harness the potential of our coastline and spur jobs in Canada's blue economy through investments in research, **ocean science** and technology.

The NDP join the Liberals in committing support to the transition to land-based closed-containment aquaculture systems.

The platform also commits supporting Canadian seafood at home and abroad, but lacks clarity on how this will be done.

Similar to the Liberals, the NDP also pledge to put in place stronger labelling rules and a Boat to Plate traceability standard for Canadian seafood products to combat seafood fraud.