



CFA PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW OF 2019 GREEN PARTY PLATFORM

SUMMARY NOTES:

The Green party platform calls for transformative changes to Canadian agriculture which would see support focused towards small-scale, organic, and locally-oriented agriculture, while establishing targets that would see the industry transition away from use of nitrogen fertilizer and intensive livestock production. This policy platform includes a wide array of measures that would likely limit access to innovative products, based on adoption of the precautionary principle and outright bans of neonicotinoids, while reorienting a number of other policy instruments to focus on “reversing climate change through regenerative agriculture practices”.

On trade, the Green platform would reorient Canada’s trade strategy to place more emphasis on local, domestic markets, and would seek reforms of the WTO to align it directly with a global carbon budget. Furthermore, the platform calls for the removal of investor state dispute settlement provisions from all of Canada’s existing trade and investment agreements. However, the platform does not speak to the importance of export markets for many Canadian producers, nor does it directly speak to the sector’s role as a potential carbon sequestration solution.

The Green Party has committed to dismantling the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, and to instead address labour problems through regular immigration.

In subsequent comments on CBC, Elizabeth May has indicated that the Green party would support valuation of agriculture’s ecological goods and services, however this isn’t clearly laid out in the written platform and there are, as of now, no details on how this would be implemented.

With regard to aquaculture, the platform commits to providing financial and extension support to transition aquaculture facilities into closed containment systems on land by 2025, while shifting aquaculture regulation to AAFC in an effort to eliminate “DFO’s conflicting roles of aquaculture promotion and wild salmon protection”.

	Green Party of Canada - 2019 Platform	CFA Notes
<p><u>Agriculture</u></p>	<p>On August 2019, climate scientists released a report warning that agriculture must be transformed in order to meet climate change goals. Canada has a huge opportunity to become a world leader in reversing climate change through regenerative agriculture practices. The soil will be the unsung hero, a game-changer in fighting climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement national standards for reducing the use of nitrogen fertilizers in crop agriculture, reducing erosion and rebuilding soils to retain carbon, and transitioning away from industrial livestock production. • Support the transition of industrial agriculture systems to regenerative agriculture. • Establish climate change emission targets for all components of the food system, including nitrogen fertilizer use, livestock production and transportation. • Fund research and extend support for farmers shifting from conventional to organic and regenerative farming systems which work with nature, not against it, to produce food. • Adopt animal welfare legislation to prevent inhumane treatment of farm animals including in intensive factory farming operations. This will set minimum standards of treatment and have a timetable for phasing out intensive factory farming and other inhumane animal husbandry practices. It will set standards for distances live animals can be transported, and conditions for animals in slaughterhouses and auctions. • Invest \$2.5 million per year into a land and quota trust program and farming apprenticeship programs to expand local small-scale agriculture and help new farmers get started. 	<p>This platform calls for wholesale reforms of Canadian agriculture, shifting focus to local, small-scale, organic agriculture, and transitioning away from intensive livestock production.</p> <p>This includes setting national standards and targets focused on the reduction of nitrogen fertilizer use, funding transitions to organics, and adoption of the precautionary principle by Canadian regulators.</p> <p>The platform does commit to certain areas that could align with CFA asks, such as the restructuring of Canada’s BRM programs to better respond to climate change risks (albeit without reference to market-based risk), establishing a land inventory that would better</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the right of farmers to save their own seed and promote heritage seed banks and seed exchange programs. • Set a target to replace a third of Canada’s food imports with domestic production, increasing regional food self-reliance and returning 15 billion food dollars back into our economy. • Support rooftop and community gardens and urban food production systems to increase access to local food. • Assist in re-establishing the infrastructure for local food production in canneries, slaughterhouses and other value-added food processing. • Protect supply management systems while allowing production for local markets outside this system. • Reinstatement of the Canada Land Inventory program to provide a comprehensive record of existing and potential agricultural land. • Provide effective fiscal incentives to other levels of government to preserve farmlands under their jurisdictions. • Renew the national Environmental Farm Plan Program to help farmers protect wildlife habitat areas and marginal lands, maintain water quality in streams, lakes and aquifers, and retain and improve soil quality, increase carbon sequestration and decrease water requirements. • Restore the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation measures for adaptation to drought conditions. • Restructure Canada’s Business Risk Management Programs to help farmers cope with climate risk, with the focus on disaster assistance. • Set targets for reducing the use of pesticides in agriculture through programs to assist farmers in moving to organic and regenerative farming. 	<p>track agricultural land use, re-establishing regional food processing infrastructure, and renewing the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Measures.</p> <p>The platform also commits to renewing the national Environmental Farm Plan Program (EFP). While continued federal support is appreciated, it should be clarified that EFPs operate on the provincial level and that the CFA-supported National Environmental Farm Plan is still under development.</p> <p>The platform also commits to setting targets to reduce the use of pesticides through programs that transition farmers to regenerative agriculture, and to banning neonicotinoids and helping farmers shift to alternatives.</p>
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<p><u>International Trade</u></p>	<p>A Green government will work to restructure global trade relations to address climate change and social justice imperatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revamp national trade policy to align with national and international climate change plans. This includes reducing the distances over which food is shipped by increasing domestic and local food production. • Protect supply management and ensure that products which are banned in Canada are not imported in food from other countries, for example bovine growth hormone in milk products. • Facilitate a global effort to reform the World Trade Organization. Building on General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) article XX, which was always intended to insulate legislated domestic conservation efforts from trade disciplines, revamp the World Trade Organization to the World Trade and Climate Organization to ensure that trade is consistent with a global carbon budget. Tariffs will be assigned based on the carbon intensity of imported products. 	<p>The Green platform calls for a trade policy that would align more closely with international climate change plans, including a greater emphasis on domestic, local markets. However, the platform does not acknowledge Canadian agriculture’s role as a source of carbon sequestration, nor the importance of export markets for many producers.</p> <p>The platform commits to protecting supply management, noting the need for stronger enforcement of domestic</p>

- Renegotiate Canada's trade and investment agreements to remove the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions that give foreign corporations extraordinary powers to challenge the laws and policies of democratically elected governments, and include binding labour, health, safety and environmental standards.

regulations on imports. However, it does not outline how the protection of supply management would be enacted to address the three pillars of supply management:

- Effective border measures
- Pricing authority
- Production controls

CFA supports ensuring that the production of imported products has complied with our own regulatory/food safety protocols, as CFA adopted a resolution advocating that no imports should be allowed with MRLs of chemicals not allowed in Canada and that imports should be accorded the same treatment as domestic products.

The platform also calls for reforms of the WTO that would see its agenda focused on aligning trade with a global carbon budget, whereas CFA's position has always maintained that the

		<p>WTO should deal with the establishment and compliance of trade rules exclusively, including domestic support.</p> <p>The platform also calls for the removal of Investor State Dispute Settlement provisions from all of Canada's investment and trade agreement. Dispute settlement mechanisms are an integral component to a well-functioning trading system. The CFA supports a more effective and transparent dispute settlement process that ensures a timely outcome</p>
<p><u>Aquaculture</u></p>	<p>Seafood is an important part of a healthy diet and integral to the culture of coastal communities, especially Indigenous communities. Yet it is increasingly difficult to procure a fish for dinner that has come from a healthy stock fished by sustainable methods. Canadians should have access to seafood from sustainably managed fisheries, caught, landed and processed in Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implement the co-management provisions of the Oceans Act. • Protect independent harvesters and coastal communities by entrenching owner-operator and fleet separation policies in the Fisheries Act; and implement the 20 	<p>The platform commits to providing financial and extension support to transition aquaculture facilities into closed containment systems on land by 2025.</p> <p>The Green Party also pledges to shift aquaculture regulation to AAFC in an</p>

	<p>recommendations of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans report, West Coast Fisheries: Sharing Risks and Benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for research on fish stocks to improve management and protect endangered species in the face of rapidly changing ecosystems. • By 2025, move all open-net pen finfish aquaculture facilities into closed containment systems on land. As with land farmers transitioning from conventional production, provide financial and extension support to fish pen workers to make this transition. • Remove Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s mandate to promote salmon aquaculture and shift regulation of aquaculture to Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, thereby eliminating DFO’s conflicting roles of aquaculture promotion and wild salmon protection. • Expand marine protected areas from 10 to 30 per cent of Canada’s territorial waters by 2030. • To reduce and mitigate plastic waste from fishing gear that entangles and kills marine animals, by January 2021 implement an Extended Producer Responsibility program for all companies making or selling synthetic fishing gear which would fund the retrieval of lost or abandoned fishing gear, commonly known as ghost nets, and the collection and recycling of old, damaged, and recovered fishing gear. 	<p>effort to eliminate “DFO’s conflicting roles of aquaculture promotion and wild salmon protection”.</p>
<p><u>Immigration</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the pathway for international students and foreign workers to Canadian permanent residency and citizenship. • Eliminate the Temporary Foreign Workers Program and address labour shortages by increasing immigration, working with employers to establish paths to permanent residency. 	<p>The platform aligns with CFA’s request for enhanced pathways to permanent residency, however it calls for elimination of the TFWP and fails to account for seasonal occupations and</p>

		workers that continue to suggest a preference for temporary working arrangements in Canada.
<p><u>Rural Infrastructure</u></p>	<p>To a great extent, the Green economy is a digital economy. To participate fully, individuals and communities across the country need access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet. Such infrastructure is as essential today as power and telephone lines were early last century.</p> <p>Currently there is a digital divide separating those with such access and those without. The Green Party supports the government’s Connectivity Strategy but has concerns about the introduction of 5G technology and which companies should be involved in delivering this next generation of connectivity. We are also concerned that the regulatory structure governing cellular and internet service results in Canadians paying much higher fees than people in other countries.</p> <p>A Green government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strike a parliamentary committee to examine the implications of introducing 5G technology, including security issues and impacts on weather forecasting, and make recommendations on how and if Canada should proceed. • Guard against threats to net neutrality. 	<p>The green platform acknowledges the importance of universal access to broadband internet, but makes no commitments to infrastructure expenditures while calling for a study on the adoption of 5G technology before seeking its adoption in Canada.</p>