



November 15, 2021

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Email: Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Bibeau,

On behalf of Food Secure Canada, I would like to offer you our congratulations on your re-appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food. As you know, Food Secure Canada is a pan-Canadian alliance of organizations and individuals working toward just, healthy and sustainable food systems. It is my privilege to serve on your Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council.

Food Secure Canada organised its third edition of [Eat Think Vote](#) during this summer's election campaign. Communities across Canada engaged with parliamentary candidates to talk about food security, food sovereignty and the local issues that matter to them. Following the re-election of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau we wrote him this [open letter](#) last month, urging him to realize the breadth and ambition of the Food Policy for Canada in his new mandate.

While transforming our food systems requires a whole-of-government approach, we welcome your leadership as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food. We foresee multiple, positive outcomes for Canadians, and essential pathways towards fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 through policies and programmes undertaken along the food chain. Addressing various systemic inequities and the climate crisis as well as related environmental challenges is at the heart of the urgently required food system transformation.

Concretely, we are hoping to see at least the following elements in your forthcoming mandate letter:

- Working together with your Ministerial colleagues in Health Canada and ESDC to ensure that a **universal, cost-shared healthy School Food Program** is in Budget 2022. We commend the work of the Coalition of Healthy School Food, which we host, in advancing this work;
- Strengthening the **Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council** to support the government toward the realization of the ambition and breadth of the Food Policy for Canada,

specifically through better resourcing of its work, increased transparency and more adequate representation of Indigenous leaders and voices from other equity-deserving communities;

- We support our members and allies in **Farmers for Climate Solutions** in advocating that under your leadership, the forthcoming, new Agricultural Policy Framework be climate-focused, and that you work closely with Environment and Climate Change Canada to propose and advance further solutions to the climate and biodiversity emergencies, recognising the role, responsibility and opportunity in the agriculture and food sectors;
- Continuing your leadership around innovation and financing to **tackle food loss and waste** as an urgent priority, while recognising it as primarily a supply chain issue that should not be conflated with tackling food insecurity, which is about realising the right to food and dignified access, not charity models;
- Supporting permanent residency status on arrival as the best way to guarantee the **rights, safety and well-being of workers** arriving from overseas to our fields, abattoirs and processing plants; and
- Working with your colleagues in Health Canada to measure all your policy and program interventions against the benchmark of ensuring that everyone can afford and source healthy, sustainably-produced, culturally-appropriate food, in line with **Canada's Food Guide**.

Sincerely yours,



Gisele Yasmeen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, Food Secure Canada

Cc. Jérémy Gauthier, Director of Policy, Minister's Office