Ms. Diana Bronson  
Executive Director  
Mr. Eric Chaurette  
Chair of the Steering Committee  
Food Secure Canada  
201–3720 Park Avenue  
Montréal, Quebec H2X 2J1

Dear Ms. Bronson and Mr. Chaurette:

I am writing in response to your correspondence to the Right Honourable Stephen Harper regarding sustainable food systems in Canada. I appreciate being made aware of your views on this important matter.

Please be assured that the Government of Canada considers issues of safety to be of the utmost importance. It reaffirmed its commitment to improving food safety and nutrition in support of Canadian families in the October 16, 2013, Speech from the Throne. The Speech noted the recent passage of the Safe Food for Canadians Act, which will protect Canadians by targeting unsafe practices, implementing tougher penalties for activities that put health and safety at risk, providing better control over imports, instituting a more consistent inspection regime across all food commodities, and strengthening food traceability. The Government also stated its intention to continue working with the provinces and territories on improving food inspection regimes. Further, the Speech highlighted the Government’s plan to consult with Canadians on how best to provide nutritional information through food labels.

Beyond the initiatives mentioned in the Speech, the Government is active in many areas of food policy to improve the lives of Canadians. These activities span across several federal organizations. As part of its food policy effort, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) works toward ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Canadian farm and food sector, which is critical to both domestic and global food security. We have made significant progress in the last few years in key areas of food policy, including food safety, innovation, competitiveness, and market access. AAFC is the federal partner in Growing Forward 2, a five-year, $3-billion investment with the provinces and territories in agricultural programs and services. Growing Forward 2 was launched earlier this year and will provide further progress in these key areas.
Thank you for writing and for your commitment to a healthier, sustainable food system.

Sincerely,

Gerry Ritz, PC, MP