

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

Quote: 247280

JAN 16 2019

Ms. Diana Bronson and Co-Signatories
Executive Director
Food Secure Canada
director@foodsecurecanada.org

Dear Ms. Bronson and Co-Signatories:

I am writing in response to your correspondence to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau regarding leadership on *A Food Policy for Canada* and other federal policies, which was forwarded to me for consideration. As you know, the Office of the Prime Minister forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, and the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs. I appreciate being made aware of the concerns that members of Food Secure Canada and other organizations have regarding the timely announcement of *A Food Policy for Canada*.

As the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, I am honoured that the Prime Minister asked me to lead on a food policy that promotes healthy living and safe food by putting more healthy, high-quality food produced by Canadian ranchers and farmers on the tables of families across the country. *A Food Policy for Canada* is expected to be a federal, whole-of-government initiative that will establish a long-term vision for a coordinated and systems-based approach to addressing a broad scope of food-related issues in Canada.

Throughout the public consultations held in 2017 on this food policy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) heard from many participants about the importance of taking a balanced approach toward addressing the interconnected themes of food security, health and food safety, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. Many participants also highlighted the importance of collaboration and inclusion of diverse perspectives to make meaningful progress on food-related issues.

The Department has been taking the time to carefully review all input received during consultations to develop a food policy that represents the needs of all those living in Canada. I appreciate the continued leadership and input provided by Food Secure Canada toward the development of this policy.

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AAFC has been working with many departments across the federal government, including Health Canada, on the development of the food policy. AAFC has also been working with Health Canada on the development of the Healthy Eating Strategy, which is expected to contribute to objectives of *A Food Policy for Canada*.

If you would like to follow progress on *A Food Policy for Canada*, I encourage you to visit www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy.html for the latest news and updates.

I look forward to continued collaboration with Food Secure Canada, as well as the co-signatories, to develop a food policy that reflects multiple perspectives and supports positive health, social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Thank you for writing on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence MacAulay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, PC, MP
The Honourable Dominic Leblanc, PC, MP