

NDP Response: National Farmers Union

I'm a farmer worried about extreme weather events. What will you do to help farmer manage the transition to a low-emissions future so we can help feed our neighbours in a changing climate?

Whether it's in the changing growing seasons, record rainfalls and droughts in the same year, or the rise in unpredictable weather, we know that Canada's farmers are on the frontline, feeling the impacts of the climate crisis.

As the climate crisis grows worse it becomes increasingly more important that we act quickly and decisively to fight the crisis like we actually want to win. The Liberals promised they would act and hold big polluters accountable – but behind closed doors they let big corporations and fossil-fuel companies off the hook and passed on the costs to everyday families instead. Unlike Liberals or Conservatives, we'll ensure that everyday families have the supports and services they need as we transition to a low-carbon economy and that no one is left behind.

We will create a Green Climate Bank to help people make the transition, invest \$80 million in improving farmland management and put \$2.4 billion into a new Disaster Mitigation Fund.

How will your party support efforts by new and young farmers to start and keep farming? One party's platform includes increased financial assistance for first time home buyers. What help will you offer to new, first-time farm buyers in a market where new farmers are competing for land with pension funds and farmland investment corporations that are driving prices out of reach for our next generation of farmers?

To make it simpler for young people and women to get into agriculture and build a life on the farm, we'll work with the provinces to improve training opportunities across the country, and provide low-cost start-up loans for new farmers.

To ensure that farmers are able to pass on their businesses to the next generation we'll also provide support for succession planning and end the unfair tax treatment of family-farm transfers – making it easier for family farms to stay in the family.

We will invest \$120 million in supporting new farmers and improving their ability to promote and market their products.

Whether it's tax dollars or farmer check-off dollars, plant breeding research is still funded by farmers, and we should have a public and

transparent say in how our public money is spent. The farmer-run western grains research foundation directs tens of millions of dollars in cereals breeding research every year. Will you pledge to support farmer interests, and oppose the corporate-driven agenda to put seed breeding research and seed variety ownership into the hands of unaccountable corporations?

Justin Trudeau and the Liberals promised that they'd work for everyday Canadians in the last election. But as soon as they got into office they abandoned that promise at the request of their lobbyist friends and big corporations.

We'll put your priorities first, not corporations. This will mean working to keep Canadian agriculture on the cutting edge of knowledge and innovation, providing direct economic benefit to our farmers by investing in public agricultural research and data collection.

What policies will you bring in to support healthy food and sustainable farms serving their local communities?

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 ensure more Canadians are able to enjoy the healthy food that our farmers produce every day we'll work with producers along the supply chain to increase the amount of Canadian food that is sold, processed and consumed in local and regional markets.

We will invest \$120 million in supporting new farmers and improving the ability of all Canadian farmers to promote and market their products.

What help do you propose to farmers to help mitigate risk that doesn't involve taking on new farm debt?

For years during elections, Liberals and Conservatives have promised to focus on the priorities of everyday Canadians and business owners but when they get into power the only people they focus on are the big corporations and those at the very top.

New Democrats are different. Our party was founded by everyday farmers and we continue to be in it for you. A New Democrat government will work with farmers, producers and greenhouse growers to work with you on solutions and ensure that you have the support you need.

What will you do to help farmers diversify away from risky foreign markets for their products in a volatile world faced with trade wars?

In it for you • On se bat pour vous

NDP  NDP
**Jagmeet
Singh**

Justin Trudeau's failure to stand up to Donald Trump on issues like supply management has hurt Canada's farmers. Unlike Liberals – who traded away protections for Canadian producers – we'll protect supply management and stand up against unfair tariffs.

To help farmers access new markets and step out on the world stage, a New Democrat government will streamline access to government export services, increase trade promotion and make it easier to break into foreign markets.

Will you support universal Pharmacare to help reduce the financial burden health care can impose on self-employed farmers?

Just as the NDP led the fight to establish universal public health care for all Canadians, we are leading the fight to expand Medicare to include quality prescription drug coverage for everyone, regardless of your job, where you live, your age, your health status or how much money you make.

We will begin working with the provinces right away, to get pharmacare up and operating by the end of 2020. We will back up our commitment with federal leadership and an annual federal investment of over \$10 billion.

This will mean getting your medication the same way you access medical and hospital care – free at the point of care, and financed by a public insurance system that covers everyone. It means that you'll need your health card – not your credit card – to get the drugs you need, without the costly co-payments, deductibles, or premiums that are now costing families so much.

Will you support universal childcare, to allow for more equal participation of all farmers in their agricultural work?

Liberals have been promising affordable child care in every election since 1993 and they've broken that promise every single time. Empty Liberal talk and broken promises won't help families who are paying the cost of their mortgage in childcare every month.

A New Democrat government will invest over \$10 billion over the next four years – working with provinces, territories, and Indigenous governments to create over 500,000 new licensed childcare spaces in our first mandate.

And we will establish a new Childcare Secretariat that will move forward on creating a national, universal childcare program that will afford families, and especially women, full and equal participation in the Canadian work force.