



**Liberal Party of Canada | Parti libéral du Canada**

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**Ryder Lee, Manager, Federal Provincial Relations**  
**Canadian Cattlemen's Association**  
1207 - 350 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, ON K1R 7S8  
By email to RLee@cattle.ca

Dear Mr. Lee,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our policies online at [www.liberal.ca](http://www.liberal.ca). This site provides details on Liberal goals and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Michael Ignatieff, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership. We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

**Alfred Apps, President**  
Liberal Party of Canada

## Canadian Cattlemen's Association Questionnaire

*In developing your responses, feel free to refer to the CCA's "Information for Federal Candidates in Canada's 41st Federal Election", dated April 1, 2011, found at [www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca) .*

1. What are the priorities for your party in agricultural market access?

The Liberal Party of Canada believes that Canadian farmers produce the safest, highest quality foods in the world. We are committed to developing Canada's first National Food Policy which will build long term, sustainable farm incomes. A key part of this effort is gaining a greater share of the world market for agricultural products. In order to garner a greater share of the world market, Canada must strengthen its international brand as a producer of the highest-quality foods in the world.

To that end, a Liberal government will launch a new Branding Canada initiative in markets around the world, This will help boost trade and investment in key sectors, such as agriculture. Canada's embassies and consulates, in close collaboration with Canadian farmers, will play a leading role in Branding Canada and reaching markets overseas.

2. What are the plans for achieving those market access gains?

Canada's future competitiveness and opportunities for export growth rest on expanding our share of high-value markets where our reputation for quality puts us ahead. A Liberal government will **expand export opportunities** and **build Canada's international brand** as a producer of the highest-quality foods and beverages in the world by strengthening coordination between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

3. What will your party do to resolve the Country of Origin Labelling dispute with the United States?

The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to open and transparent negotiations when it comes to dealing with our international partners. As a part of our National Food Policy we are committed to new, progressive, labelling regulations that give clear and simple information to Canadians on the nutritional value of the foods they purchase, improves the regulator process for new health claims and clarifies Product of Canada labelling. While the United States has its own set of concerns when it comes to the labelling of the products consumed by their citizens, we will promote the interests of Canadian food producers, who provide safe and healthy foods for consumption in Canada and abroad. We are open to holding consultations with all interested parties to explore the available options to work with other countries on issues of food labelling.

4. What will your party do to continue the work of the Regulatory Cooperation initiative between Canada and the United States?

The Regulatory Cooperation initiative is a government to government partnership that spans many policy areas. A Liberal government will uphold processes that have been agreed upon by the previous Canadian government and the government of the United States. We will also continue to explore new ways to cooperate with the United States in order to keep the flow of goods open between our two countries.

5. How will your party increase investment in agriculture research in Canada?

The third principle of the Liberal's plan for a first ever National Food Policy is **Sustainable Farm Incomes: Supporting innovation and protecting against risk.**

Sustainable farm incomes, rural infrastructure and research and innovation are keys to ensuring Canada maintains a strong and vibrant food production system. *Unfortunately, Canada's farmers have for many years faced a maze of confusing and unpredictable programs.* A Liberal government will work in partnership with Canadian farmers to build farm programs from the farm up, not Ottawa down, through the following commitments:

- A **Clean Slate Commitment** to undertake a complete review of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada programming in partnership with farmers within the first year of a Liberal government, including business risk management programs, agricultural research, innovation and environmental programs.
- A commitment to **restore AgriFlex** to its original mission of offering regionally flexible programs including practical, bankable business risk management to help farmers meet their costs of production. This could include the Risk Management Program in Ontario, Assurance stabilization des revenus agricoles in Quebec, market price insurance and improved crop insurance in the West, or a Buy Atlantic program in the Atlantic provinces.

6. What is your party's plan to transition to a market based biofuels policy in Canada?

A Liberal government will encourage biofuel technologies as part of our commitment to support Clean Resources, one of our three Canadian Champion Sectors. Clean Resources will be an economic priority across government departments, as well as the focus of collaboration with other governments, and with business and academic leaders. We will also target new tax incentives for innovative, emerging firms, in these Canadian sectors.

Liberals are committed to quadruple Canada's low-impact renewable energy production from 2009 levels by 2017, to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and create clean energy jobs. To help meet this goal, we will bring back the Renewable Power Production Incentive (RPPI), a highly successful program cancelled by the Harper Conservatives. It will provide an incentive to renewable power entrepreneurs to accelerate the development of nearmarket-ready renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, tidal and biomass,

including biofuels. In combination with existing provincial initiatives, an investment of \$1 billion in RPPI over the coming years will increase Canada's renewable energy mix to 10 percent of our total electricity output by 2017.

7. How does your party plan to collaborate with cattle producers to increase grassland resilience, improve biodiversity conservation and improve wildlife habitat?

A Liberal government will work with Canada's farmers to **strengthen Canada's Environmental Farm Plans**, support improved **fertilizer and pesticide management**, and introduce new environmental goods and services programs that reward farmers for environmentally-sustainable initiatives such as **setting aside land for wildlife habitats** or **carbon sequestration**.

We will work with cattle producers and other members of the farming community to explore other conservation measures that can be taken to ensure that the rich Canadian farmland can be preserved for future generations.

A Liberal government will also engage with the provinces, territories, First Nations and conservation groups to protect more of Canada's intact wilderness areas. This effort will emphasize an ecosystem-wide approach to conservation, whereby national and provincial parks and other conservation areas, including parts of our boreal forest, are connected through protected "eco-corridors" that allow species to move from one protected area to another.

8. What are your party's other planned environmental initiatives?

A Liberal government will provide the leadership required for a successful transition to the prosperous, cleaner economy of tomorrow, through action in four major areas: becoming a world leader in clean resources, a new Canadian Clean Energy Partnership, action on climate change, and stewardship of our natural environment.

Under a Liberal government we will lead the world in clean resource development. That means both exporting resource-based products produced with the lowest possible impact, and supplying knowledge, technology and expertise to other markets for responsible management, development and consumption of natural resources.

A Liberal government will launch the Canadian Clean Energy Partnership, inviting provincial and territorial governments, the private sector and stakeholders to work together on five Canada wide objectives:

- Managing a long-term transition to the low-carbon economy of the future;
- Helping families advance energy efficiency and conservation;
- Encouraging Canadian businesses to become more competitive through energy efficiency;
- Securing clean technology jobs in Canada; and
- Doing our part in the global fight against climate change.

In order to take firm action on climate change, a Liberal government will establish a cap-and-trade system – a mechanism that sets a ceiling on the total amount of permissible greenhouse gas emissions by large industrial facilities and then auctions off emission permits to companies who can trade them amongst themselves to remain compliant under the law.

The Liberal Party of Canada will also implement a number of measures for the stewardship of our natural environment, such as:

- the stewardship of parks and protected spaces;
- a Canadian Freshwater Strategy;
- Stewardship of Canada's Oceans
- a World-Leading Oil Spill Contingency Plan
- halting new leasing and oil exploration in Arctic waters; and
- formalizing the existing British Columbia Crude Oil Tanker Moratorium.

9. How does your party plan to improve the regulatory burden on Canadian cattle producers?

Canada's farmers have for many years faced a maze of confusing and unpredictable programs. A Liberal government will work in partnership with Canadian farmers to build farm programs from the farm up, not Ottawa down.

A Liberal Government will implement a ***Clean Slate Commitment*** to undertake a complete review of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada programming in partnership with farmers within the first year of a Liberal government, including business risk management programs, agricultural research, innovation and environmental programs.

10. What is your party's plan for national business risk management programs for Canadian cattle producers?

Business Risk Management (BRM) programs provide government supported insurance for farmers whose incomes fall due to disease, weather or unexpected business shortfalls. Many farmers are unhappy with the current programs as they believe they are complicated, unpredictable and don't help farmers in need.

The best way to build programs that work is to build programs by farmers for farmers. A Liberal government believes that farmers facing financial hardship through no fault of their own should be given bankable, predictable support to avoid financial catastrophe. A Liberal government would restore AgriFlex to its original mission of offering regionally flexible programs including practical, bankable business risk management to help farmers meet their costs of production in whichever region they operate.

11. How does your party plan on reversing the increasing trend of individual provincial business risk management programs that pit producers from different provinces against each other based on provincial budgets?

A Liberal government will **restore AgriFlex** to its original mission of offering regionally flexible programs including practical, bankable business risk management to help farmers meet their costs of production. This could include the Risk Management Program in Ontario, Assurance stabilization des revenus agricoles in Quebec, market price insurance and improved crop insurance in the West, or a Buy Atlantic program in the Atlantic provinces. The risk management program is a practical, bankable program designed by farmers for farmers, and it will help our farmers make ends meet. Despite the valuable benefits it could provide farmers, the Conservatives have refused to get behind this program.