



FRUIT & VEGETABLE
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DU CANADA

Policy Panel 1: Regulation, Risk, and Resilience: Bridging Federal Policy and Grower Experience

Date: Monday, March 9, 2026

Time: 15:00–16:45

Location: The Westin Ottawa, Governor General Ballroom II

Moderator: Erik Nielsen, Director of Policy, Research and Public Affairs

This session brings senior federal leaders together with FVGC members and growers to discuss how policy and regulatory decisions translate into day-to-day realities on farms—particularly in a sector that is highly regulated, risk-exposed, and trade-dependent.

Panelists:

- Matthew Smith, Chief Agriculture Negotiator and Director General, AAFC (Market and Industry Services Branch – Trade Agreements and Negotiations)
- Pamela MacDonald, Executive Director, Inspection Support Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Frédéric Bissonnette, Senior Director General, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Health Canada
- Francesco Del Bianco, Director General, Business Risk Management Programs Directorate, AAFC



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Policy Panel 2: Parliamentary Perspectives on Regulatory Reform, Food Security, and Competitiveness

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026

Time: 8:30–10:00

Location: The Westin Ottawa, Governor General Ballroom III

Moderator: Pascal Forest, FVGC Board of Directors

This panel brings together Members of Parliament from across parties to discuss the findings and recommendations of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food report, *Unleashing the Potential of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector Through Regulatory Reform*.

Discussion will focus on what the report may mean for government priorities and what growers can realistically expect in terms of regulatory improvement.

Panelists:

- Liberal: MP Sophie Chatel
- Conservative: MP Dave Epp
- Bloc Québécois: MP Sébastien Lemire
- NDP: MP Gord Johns (invited)



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