



FRUIT & VEGETABLE
GROWERS
OF CANADA

PRODUCTEURS
DE FRUITS ET LÉGUMES
DU CANADA

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Via Email

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: Concerns and Recommendations from the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada on Grocery Price Stabilization Measures

I am writing on behalf of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC), an organization representing growers from coast to coast. We appreciate the government's attention to the issue of escalating grocery costs, which impacts Canadians across all income brackets. We acknowledge Innovation, Science and Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne's recent announcement on discounts, price freezes, and price matching as initial steps to stabilize grocery prices. However, we feel it is crucial to address the underlying policies contributing to these rising costs.

Last year, FVGC conducted a survey, revealing that 44% of growers were selling at a loss and 77% could not increase their selling prices to match their escalating costs. These statistics emphasize the financial pressures on growers, exacerbated by government policies such as the Carbon Tax, the Pollution Prevention Planning Notice for Primary Food Plastic Packaging, and the recent Tariff on Fertilizer. Additionally, government goals of reducing fertilizer emissions are putting extra burdens on our members, who are already judicious in their use of fertilizers.

Given this backdrop, we strongly recommend the inclusion of representatives from FVGC and the broader agricultural community in all future consultations and decision-making processes that concern grocery price stabilization. We propose that your government:

- Reevaluate the Carbon Tax: Given its cumulative impact on production costs, a targeted relief or review could contribute to more stable food pricing.
- Review the P2 Plastic Program: This policy impacts growers' operational costs and merits reconsideration in the context of overall food pricing.
- Examine the Tariff on Fertilizer: This tariff significantly impacts input costs for farmers, affecting consumer prices as a consequence.
- Consider Fertilizer Emission Goals: Recognize that the government's ambitions to lower fertilizer emissions could inadvertently place further financial burdens on a sector already practicing responsible fertilizer use.

We urge the government to acknowledge that well-intentioned policies can contribute to rising food prices and add to the challenges faced by the agricultural sector. Therefore, a holistic approach involving all stakeholders is essential for devising fair and sustainable solutions.

We are committed to collaborating closely with your government to ensure economic sustainability for the Canadians who feed the nation and to grow the crops that feed the people. Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan VanderHout', with a large loop at the start and a wavy tail.

Jan VanderHout

**President, Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada
Co-Owner and Third Generation Farmer at Beverly Farms**

CC: The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

***The Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC)** represents growers across the country involved in the production of over 120 different types of crops on over 14,000 farms, with a farm gate value of \$5.9 billion in 2021. FVGC is an Ottawa-based voluntary, not-for-profit, national association, and, since 1922, has advocated on important issues that impact Canada's fresh produce sector, promoting healthy, safe, and sustainable food, ensuring the continued success and growth of the industry.*