

July 12, 2023

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Bibeau,

On behalf of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on the historic achievement of being the first woman to chair the biennial Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations conference in Italy. Your exceptional leadership continues to make a significant impact on the global stage, and this recent accomplishment underscores your unyielding commitment to the agricultural sector.

We are particularly moved by the theme of the conference, of integrated water management. This could not be more poignant in our current global context, with the growing urgency of climate change challenges that we, as growers and as global citizens, confront on a daily basis.

Water, being the lifeblood of agriculture, its scarcity or overabundance directly influences our capacity to grow and supply nutritious food. As we face the increasing volatility of weather patterns and extremes, the importance of water stewardship cannot be understated. We applaud the conference's focus on this vital resource and believe that your efforts in championing this cause will spark necessary conversations and actions, both globally and locally.

Climate change continues to test the resilience of our industry, and the theme of water brings into sharp focus the need for adaptive and sustainable water management strategies. Your leadership at the FAO conference serves as a catalyst for the global agriculture sector to collaboratively address these critical issues.

We are confident that your guidance will help lead the way towards sustainable practices, resilient agricultural systems, and more secure food production for Canada and the world. We eagerly look forward to the outcomes of the FAO conference under your stewardship and the continued progress in global agriculture that your leadership will undoubtedly inspire.

Once again, congratulations on your momentous achievement. The Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada are proud to have such a dedicated advocate for agriculture representing our country on the global stage.

Sincerely,