



**Subject:** Ensuring Food Security: Key Priorities for the Upcoming Session

Dear Parliamentarian:

On behalf of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC), I want to welcome you back as you resume your critical work on Parliament Hill. Your decisions directly impact the resilience and sustainability of Canada's agricultural sector, and we deeply appreciate your dedication to these important issues.

As Parliament resumes, we encourage you to view policies through a food lens, recognizing the important role food security plays in all decisions. Policies across various departments can have a significant impact on our nation's food supply, and we are eager to work with you to ensure they support the sustainability of Canada's fruit and vegetable sector. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI) released a report last session, *Improving the Resilience of Canada's Horticulture Sector*, which aligns closely with FVGC's priorities and the action needed to ensure food security in the long term. Some of the key recommendations include:

- **Crop Protection:** Securing sufficient funding for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and the Pest Management Centre to provide innovative and effective crop protection products for fruit and vegetable growers, safeguarding a reliable food supply.
- **Business Risk Management Programs:** Adapting BRM frameworks to address the challenges of climate change.
- **Labour Supply and Workforce Stability:** Addressing long work permit approval times, especially for applications from within Canada, and reducing backlogs to ensure timely access to essential labour for growers. It's vital to preserve the distinction between the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) and other streams within the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program, like AgStream and the Low-Wage stream, to sustain the agricultural workforce.
- **Trade and Market Access:** Strengthening Canada's trade relationships is essential for maintaining access to critical export markets for our fruit and vegetable growers. We urge continued efforts to reduce trade barriers, enhance market access, and ensure Canadian produce remains competitive globally, especially in the face of increasing non-tariff barriers and protectionist measures abroad. Passing Bill C-280 will help to achieve these goals, while also safeguarding Canada's fruit and vegetable growers from financial losses due to buyer insolvency.

These strategies are essential to the continued success of Canada's fruit and vegetable sector and our nation's food security. We look forward to working with you to implement these recommendations, along with the others included in the AGRI Committee's report.

For more details, you can access the full AGRI report [here](#).

Thank you for your support and partnership. We anticipate a productive session ahead.

Warm regards,

Marcus Janzen  
President, FVGC