The Halifax Statement

Vision

A world-leading agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector that is competitive, innovative, resilient and drives economic growth.

The Priorities

Driving Economic Growth and Competitiveness by building domestic capacity and improving productivity and profitability.

Diversifying markets and increasing trade by seizing new, and enhancing existing, opportunities in a complex and evolving global environment.

Advancing science, research and innovation through strategic investment and coordinated action.

Enhancing sector resilience by improving the ability across the value chain to anticipate, withstand and adapt to disruptions and risks.

Guiding Principles

Flexibility, Responsiveness, and Collective Action
The framework will create conditions for success by having the flexibility to adapt to emerging needs and diversity across the country, while also providing the basis for long-term planning and advancing collective outcomes.

Respect Roles and Obligations
Governments will act in accordance with the sharing of constitutional powers and international trade obligations will be respected.

Collaboration and Coordination
Meaningful cross-government, stakeholder and partner collaboration will leverage innovation, expertise, pan-Canadian capacity and provincial and territorial strengths to support effective programs and initiatives, as well as improved regulatory clarity.

Equity, Inclusivity, and Accessibility
Build on relationships in a meaningful way with Indigenous Peoples and consider the needs of underrepresented groups to support sector diversity and participation.

Efficient Administration
Administrative processes are streamlined to improve program delivery, support effective results reporting and enhance client experience.

Accountability and Results
In order to maximize the benefits of shared investments and achieve measurable results, public funds will be managed responsibly while maintaining flexibility of program design and management.

British Columbia · Alberta · Saskatchewan · Manitoba · Ontario · Québec · Newfoundland & Labrador · Nova Scotia · New Brunswick · Prince Edward Island · Yukon · Government of Northwest Territories · Nunavut · Canada

Priorities and Focus Areas for the Next Policy Framework

Driving Economic Growth and Competitiveness

- Increase productivity, profitability and scale by supporting the adoption and integration of tools, technologies, equipment and business practices.
- Strengthen the sector's ability to attract, develop and retain labour and talent, as well as support new entrants and succession planning.
- Support business modernization and investment to enhance domestic capacity, growth, diversification and value-added processing.
- Build sector capacity and advance inclusive growth.
- Improve product quality and consistency to strengthen commercial readiness and competitiveness.

Diversifying Markets and Increasing Trade

- Build on local, domestic and international market development efforts to expand opportunities and further strengthen Canada's food systems.
- Advance diversification of sectors, products, participants and markets, and unlock opportunities for all in the domestic and global marketplace.
- Support market readiness and capacity to ensure Canadian companies are well-positioned for growth and success.
- Enhance coordination and collaboration across both orders of government to strengthen trade promotion and advocacy.

Advancing Science, Research and Innovation

- Strengthen science and research capacity and partnerships across the sector.
- Expand digital agriculture by supporting the development, demonstration and validation of new tools and technologies, including artificial intelligence, and enabling data-informed decision-making.
- Accelerate product innovation through research, development and testing of new or adapted products.
- Support knowledge transfer to advance the adoption and scaling of research outcomes, technologies and best practices.
- Advance inclusive research pathways.

Enhancing Sector Resilience

- Recognize the value of diverse risk management approaches in supporting the sector.
- Advance proactive risk management and climate adaptation.
- Enable sector prosperity and environmental stewardship through sustainable resource management, biodiversity and ecosystem services and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Strengthen public trust and market confidence by enhancing food safety, transparency and assurance systems.
- Enhance disease surveillance, prevention, control and collaboration to safeguard plant health and animal health and welfare, including efforts to reduce antimicrobial resistance.
- Improve value-chain preparedness and continuity through strong emergency planning and support reliable infrastructure.
- Promote workplace safety, health and well-being.
- Continue to improve BRM programs to be responsive and equitable to support producers to manage risks beyond their control.