

Recommendations for the 2021 Federal Budget:

1. Stop subsidies to animal agriculture.
2. Create new subsidies to make healthy, plant-based food affordable.
3. Help farmers transition to plant-based farming.

One of the many issues our country is facing today that needs to be addressed immediately is our over-spending on subsidies for animal agriculture. Billions of dollars are given to the dairy/beef and egg/chicken industries to keep their prices unfairly competitive, despite animal agriculture being an inefficient use of land and a major contributor to climate change. While the overall cost of food has gone up, and so has the cost of plant-based protein, the cost of meat is predicted to decline.

Plant-based protein alternatives, which are far better for the environment, should cost less than the products produced thorough animal agriculture since animal agriculture inherently requires more resources in the form of land, water and food produced specifically to be eaten by the animals instead of Canadian citizens. However, they do not cost less because those industries are subsidized with billions of dollars in taxpayer money. Health Canada's revised Food Guide is in support of Canadians eating more plant-based alternatives, but the government's current spending habits do not align with this reality.

To build a better Canada, I ask for our government to take three simple steps:

1. **Stop subsidizing animal agriculture.** It is wrong that billions of tax dollars are spent funding an unsustainable industry that contributes massively to climate change, a problem that the government made clear it was committed to addressing.
2. **Make healthy food affordable.** Create new subsidies to ensure healthy, organic, plant-based food is affordable. Our food system needs to be setup in a way that aligns with Health Canada's support of transitioning towards a country that consumes less meat and more plant-based food. This means that everyone, particularly those in Indigenous and low-income communities, should have easy access to a plant-based diet.
3. **Help our nation's farmers transition to plant-based farming.** The farmers that currently rely on animal agriculture for a living will need help as we transition away from that industry and towards a better, healthier, more environmentally-friendly Canada. The funds currently used to subsidize animal agriculture need to be used to provide financial assistance to farmers wishing to make the transition to plant-based farming and to set up the necessary committees to provide guidance during that transition.

Can I trust you to take the health of Canada's citizens and environment seriously by supporting the implementation of these changes in the 2021 Federal Budget?