



Hon. Michael Chong, P.C., M.P.
Wellington-Halton Hills

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Supports for the Agricultural Sector

The federal government has implemented programs for the agricultural sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OTTAWA – There are several supports in place for the agricultural sector in response to the economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the programs are outlined below.

Keeping workers in the food supply chain safe

- The government is providing \$50 million to help farmers, fish harvesters, and all food production and processing employers, put in place the measures necessary to follow the mandatory 14-day isolation period required of all workers arriving from abroad.
- The Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (MISTFWP) provides support of \$1,500 for each temporary foreign worker, to employers or those working with them to ensure requirements are fully met. The funding is conditional on employers not being found in violation of the mandatory isolation.
- For more information visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers.html>

Increasing credit availability

- The government has enabled Farm Credit Canada (FCC) to provide an additional \$5 billion in lending to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors.
- This will offer increased flexibility to farmers facing cashflow issues and to processors impacted by lost sales.
- You can also contact your banks and credit unions to discuss other supports available.
- For more information, visit FCC's website: <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19/program-details.html>

The AgriRecovery initiative

- The government is launching a national AgriRecovery initiative of up to \$125 million in funding to help producers faced with additional costs incurred by COVID-19 such as set-asides for cattle and hog management programs to manage livestock backed-up on farms, due to the temporary closure of food processing plants.

Increasing the Canadian Dairy Commission borrowing limit

- The government announced the intention to increase the Canadian Dairy Commission's borrowing limit by \$200 million to support costs associated with the temporary storage of cheese and butter to avoid food waste.

Contact Michael Chong:

Email: michael.chong@parl.gc.ca

Office Toll Free: 1 866 878 5556



Helping redistribute existing and unsold inventories

- The government is launching the Surplus Food Purchase Program with an initial \$50 million fund designed to help redistribute existing and unsold inventories, which could include products such as potatoes and poultry, to local food organizations who are serving vulnerable Canadians.

Expanding the AgriInsurance to include labour shortages

- The government is working with provinces and territories to increase interim payments from 50 per cent to 75 per cent through AgriStability, a federal, provincial and territorial program that supports producers who face significant revenue declines. This change has already been enacted in some provinces.
- To learn more about the AgriStability program visit: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1291990433266>
- To learn more about the AgriInsurance program visit: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/agricultural-programs-and-services/agriinsurance-program/?id=1284665357886>

For more support programs, visit Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada:

<https://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/agriculture-and-agri-food-canada/?id=1395690825741>

To learn more about the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, visit: www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html

Information about COVID-19 from the Government of Canada can be found here:

www.canada.ca/coronavirus

Our offices remain open and staffed to assist constituents during this coronavirus pandemic, but are closed to public access. To obtain assistance, please contact us by phone, e-mail or on social media.