

Minister  
of Agriculture and  
Agri-Food



Ministre  
de l'Agriculture et de  
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

Quote: 235055

OCT 16 2017



Mr. Alistair MacGregor, MP  
Room 519, Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your letter and enclosed report on the discussions from the town hall meeting that you hosted on June 16, 2017, with the residents of Cowichan–Malahat–Langford on agriculture and food security in Duncan, British Columbia.

I greatly appreciate receiving the feedback from your discussions on the challenges of farming and food production on Vancouver Island, along with your suggestions and comments regarding these challenges, the four themes, and the policy options for each theme. As you know, *A Food Policy for Canada* is an important step for our country. Few things affect us as much as the food that we eat, which is why consulting with Canadians about what is most important to them when it comes to food is so vital.

As mentioned in your letter, Canadians and stakeholders are very engaged and interested in the development of the food policy and have provided us with thoughtful and informed feedback. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has been working hard to accurately capture the food-related priorities of Canadians through comprehensive consultations, which began in May and concluded on September 30, 2017. We received feedback from more than 40,000 Canadians through an online survey and from close to 300 experts at our national food policy summit in June 2017. We also engaged with hundreds more stakeholders across Canada to gather regional perspectives. Several other members of Parliament, as you have done, have provided us with unique regional and local feedback that is important for helping us understand food-related priorities across the country. Moreover, we are working directly with national Indigenous organizations to better understand their priorities and views.

Given that the food policy will set a long-term vision for the health, environmental, social, and economic goals related to food, I agree with you that better coordination across federal departments is important. We are already working with several federal departments and agencies that have mandates linked to the goals of the food policy, and I have taken note of your comment that the food policy will require considerable cross-jurisdictional coordination.

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, MP

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Rest assured that your detailed submission will be considered in the development of the food policy. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence MacAulay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP