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## 2019 Federal Election Key Messages

### Background: Agriculture

- Agriculture and agri-food in Canada is a \$100 billion industry that employs over two million Canadians.
- Globally, the demand for agricultural products will only continue to grow. Canada is uniquely positioned to capitalize on this opportunity.
- To do so, however, we need to remove barriers to competitiveness including aging infrastructure, labour shortages, regulatory burdens, and access to international markets.

### Background: Beef Industry

- The Canadian beef industry represents farm cash receipts, totaling \$9.4 billion annually, contributing \$18 billion to GDP annually.
- The Canadian beef industry generates an estimated 228,000 jobs in Canada, with every job in the sector yielding another 3.56 jobs elsewhere in the economy.
- The Canadian beef industry produces some of the most affordable, nutritious and safest beef in the world.

### Issue: Labour Shortages

- A chronic shortage of labour is the single largest challenge confronting Canadian agriculture. The current labour gap is 63,000 workers—double from 31,500 ten years ago—and is projected to reach over 114,000 by 2025. Each year labour shortages cost the beef industry \$335 million in lost production. The cost to all of agriculture in lost production is almost \$3 billion annually.
- Despite exhaustive efforts, farmers cannot find enough Canadian workers to take on these necessary jobs and thus rely on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP).
- However, the TFWP is burdensome, inefficient, and costly. It is not the right type of program for farmers looking for full-time, year-round and long-term workers.
- *Share examples of your own experience with labour shortages and foreign workers.*

*If elected, what will you and your party do to provide meaningful long-term solutions for the agriculture sector to access foreign labour?*

### Issue: Rural Infrastructure

- The lack of a strong rural infrastructure foundation is a significant barrier to growth for the beef sector. Most agriculture operations are located in small rural municipalities with a limited tax base to support infrastructure needs.
- While the total federal government infrastructure funding envelope is significant, there is limited federal funding to support infrastructure in Canada's agricultural and rural communities.
- *Insert example from within your community of a rural infrastructure need*

*If elected, what will you and your party do to ensure support for rural infrastructure required to deliver agriculture products to market competitively, and make living in rural Canada more appealing to potential workers?*

### Issue: Regulatory and Taxation Barriers

- It is critical that federal regulatory requirements keep pace with technological changes and industry developments. Canada's ability to compete in global markets is reliant on this.
- Regulatory impediments for cattle feeders include export regulations, lack of veterinary drug harmonization, inconsistent inspection practices, and pending changes to transportation rules.
- Federal and provincial tax pressures are eroding the competitiveness and diminishing the long-term viability of the cattle feeding sector.
- *Share an example of regulatory or taxation challenge your operation has experienced.*

*If elected, what will you and your party do to modernize federal regulations to keep pace with the highly innovative and technology-based Canadian agriculture sector? What will you and your party do to create a competitive business tax regime?*

### Issue: International Market Access

- Each year, the Canadian beef industry exports up to 45% of all cattle and beef we produce, and about 75% is destined for the United States. As a result, the ratification of Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) is a priority.
- Future growth of the Canadian beef industry is heavily dependent on expanding international market access. The Asia Pacific region offers enormous opportunities for the Canadian beef industry, but only if we have the same access as our global competitors.
- *Share your own experience with accessing international markets for your operations.*

*If elected, what it you and your party do to immediately resolve trade barriers with China, ratify the CUSMA, and open new priority markets?*