

Figure 4.3: Canada Food Policy



We asked Canadians to tell us their views on how to improve our food system. More than 45,000 shared their views, and we listened. Budget 2019 proposes \$134.4 million in new investments, on a cash basis, to complement existing initiatives in the following areas of action.



HELP CANADIAN COMMUNITIES ACCESS HEALTHY FOOD

- Critically important for a child's education is ensuring they have healthy meals before and during school. Currently, Canada has a mix of different school breakfast and lunch programs, but much more could be done. Budget 2019 announces the Government's intention to work with provinces and territories towards the creation of a **National School Food Program**.
- **Local Food Infrastructure Fund** — \$50 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, in support for infrastructure for local food projects, including at food banks, farmers' markets and other community-driven projects.
- **Buy Canadian Promotion Campaign** — \$25 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, for an advertising and marketing campaign to promote Canadian agricultural products, in collaboration with existing branding initiatives.
- **Tackling Food Fraud** — \$24.4 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, to enhance federal capacity to detect and take enforcement action against instances of food fraud.



MAKE CANADIAN FOOD THE TOP CHOICE AT HOME AND ABROAD

- **Support for Food Processors** — a commitment to invest an additional \$100 million from the Strategic Innovation Fund to support agri-food value added production in Canada.
- More assistance for exporters through the **Export Diversification Strategy** (announced in the 2018 *Fall Economic Statement*).
- To help the agri-food sector meet Canada's ambitious export targets and attract and retain needed labour, the federal government will launch a **three-year immigration pilot** to bring in full-time, non-seasonal agricultural workers that will include a pathway to permanent residency.



SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY IN NORTHERN AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

- **Harvesters Support Grant** — a new grant to help lower the high costs associated with traditional hunting and harvesting activities, which are an important source of healthy, traditional food (announced in the 2018 *Fall Economic Statement*).
- **Northern Isolated Community Initiatives Fund** — \$15 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, to support community-led projects, with funding for equipment such as community freezers, greenhouses, local food production projects, and skills training for local and Indigenous food producers.



REDUCE FOOD WASTE

- **Food Waste Reduction Challenge** — \$20 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, to create a new challenge with funding awarded for the most innovative food waste reduction proposals in three sectors: 1) food processing; 2) grocery retail; and 3) food service.
- **Federal Leadership in Food Waste Reduction** — the Government will refocus \$6.3 million in existing resources over five years, starting in 2019-20, to set new ambitions to lower its own food waste by developing new plans to support federal employees and facilities in reducing their food waste, and to launch a National Food Waste Reduction Forum.