



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

September 29, 2015

Brian Innes
President, Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance
Suite 1207, 350 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 7S8

Dear Mr. Innes:

Thank you very much for writing and raising with us the perspectives of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance with respect to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

We recognize that the stakes of the TPP negotiations are high for your membership as they are for Canada. The TPP presents an important opportunity to build stronger, sustainable trade linkages with Asia and with Asian-Pacific countries, but it is also a far-reaching agreement with potentially wide-ranging impacts.

New Democrats believe it is in Canada's best interest to maintain an agricultural policy that supports a strong farming sector in healthy rural communities, with a stable system that produces safe, healthy and affordable food.

While diversifying and deepening our trade relationships are a priority for New Democrats, we think agreements must be carefully negotiated so they benefit Canada's interests in the long term. And, as with any international agreement affecting Canadians' lives, we believe the government of Canada must strive for transparency, openness, and accountability.

Unfortunately, the Conservatives' approach to these negotiations has been marked by secrecy and the absence of meaningful public consultations. For a trade deal of such significant economic importance, the Canadian government should be doing a much better job of keeping Canadians informed about these negotiations.

The NDP believes the level of secrecy surrounding the TPP is unacceptable, but of course we can't judge an agreement we have not seen. When it comes to trade agreements, details are what matters. In keeping with our consistent approach, the NDP will carefully study the text of an agreement in order to evaluate whether Canadian families and communities will benefit.

-2-

We are also committed to extensive consultations with Canadians and stakeholder groups, like your own. In our view, meaningful consultation requires significant details about the agreement or the actual negotiated text.

Thank you again for taking the time to share CAFTA's concerns with us.

Best regards,

Canada's New Democrats