



Canadian Pork Council  
Conseil canadien du porc

On Wednesday, September 11, 2019, **the 43<sup>rd</sup> Canadian general election was called**. Leading up to election day on October 21, party leaders will travel across Canada promoting their platforms and vision for Canada. Candidates will knock on doors and shake hands to earn the support of voters in all the 338 ridings. Pork producers do not live in every riding but the impact of your work on the Canadians and the economy is significant. The efforts of 7,000 hog producers across this country fuel a \$24 billion economic engine and provide sustainably produced wholesome food for Canadians.

**Now is the time for you to speak to candidates about what is important to you.** At no time in my 30 plus years of farming, have I seen elected officials so complacent in the division being created in the agriculture community due to policy and program announcements. Several factors are affecting pork farms across the country: trade wars; the lack of compensation; the need for adequate risk management programming; the threat of disease; and the harassment of farmers by those opposed to animal agriculture and the consumption of animals.

We are the most reliable experts on what is needed to further strengthen our industry. **Candidates will only know and understand the issues affecting the pork industry and the community you live in through your communication efforts.**

**Canadian pork producer priorities for the upcoming 2019 federal election include:**

- 1) Creating a strategic investment program for producers to address the loss of the Chinese market and the impact of the ongoing US-China trade war.
- 2) Maintaining a competitive access to markets and further develop trade with Asian regions that are critical to the growth of the industry.
- 3) Providing additional resources to address the threat posed by African swine fever.
- 4) Developing effective business risk management programming to help manage the extreme market volatility faced by pork producers.
- 5) Establishing the Canadian pork promotion and research agency.

The Canadian Pork Council has prepared two documents to help you communicate these 5 priorities: [a document that you can share](#) with candidates, and a [document that further explains these priorities](#).

Together, we can ensure the voice of Canadian pork producers is heard by candidates and our priorities considered as we choose the next leaders of our country. I thank you for your efforts and stand with you to help strengthen and grow our sector and livelihood.

**Rick Bergmann**

Pork producer from Manitoba  
Chair, Canadian Pork Council