



YOUNG AGRARIANS

BREAKING BARRIERS: GROWING FUTURE FARMERS

A National New Farmer Framework is needed to grow the next generation of farmers and ensure that Canada has farm renewal and food sovereignty!

Agriculture in Canada faces a farm renewal crisis as the farming population continues to age and decline. Since 1991, Canada has lost one third (32.8%) of its farm operators and over two thirds (70.9%) of its young farmers. Canada is losing young farmers at more than double the rate that it is losing farmers overall.

As of 2021, only 8.6% of farm operators are under the age of 35 (22,625). New and equity-seeking farmers face significant challenges to access land, capital, knowledge and training. These barriers along with a lack of local infrastructure and agricultural supports hinder the growth of new farms.

LET'S REDUCE THE BARRIERS NEW FARMERS FACE!

Expand Program and Resource Accessibility

Invest in New and Equity-Seeking Farmers
Prioritize Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Fund New Farmer Organizations
Develop a New Farmer Database

CAPITAL & INCOME

- Reduce eligibility criteria barriers to capital access
- Develop equity-focused micro-loans and grants
- Create a low-interest start-up farm mortgage product
- Allow in-kind labour and ecosystem services to meet matching requirements to access loans and grants
- Expand accessibility of Business Risk Management programs
- Implement a New Farmer Income Stability Supplement

COMMUNITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Invest in rural community development and infrastructure
- Fund local food processing, distribution and slaughter facilities
- Guarantee pathways to citizenship for migrant agricultural workers
- Support non-family farm succession
- Expand mental health supports

KNOWLEDGE & TRAINING

- Fund farmer-to-farmer recruitment, training, research and knowledge transfer
- Grow on-farm apprenticeships
- Bolster mentorships programs
- Increase training and retention through more accessible wage subsidies
- Restore coordinated Extension Services

ACCESS TO LAND

- Implement UNDRIP and respect treaty land rights
- Fund regional Land Matching programs
- Expand public land leasing
- Facilitate housing solutions on farmland
- Protect farmland and incentivize access for new farmers