



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. Currently, only 1.3% of the Canadian population is involved in agriculture and Canada is losing young farmers at more than double the rate that it is losing farmers¹. Since 1991, Canada has lost one third (32.8%) of its farm operators and over two thirds (70.9%) of its young farmers. As of 2021, only 8.6% of farm operators are under the age of 35 (22,625)². 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



ACCESS TO LAND

1. Implement UNDRIP and respect treaty land rights
2. Fund regional Land Matching programs
3. Protect farmland and incentivize access
4. Facilitate housing solutions on farmland
5. Expand public land leasing



CAPITAL & INCOME

6. Reduce eligibility criteria barriers
7. Develop equity-focused micro-loans and grants
8. Create a low-interest start-up farm mortgage product
9. Allow in-kind labour and ecosystem services to meet matching requirements
10. Enhance Business Risk Management programs
11. Implement a New Farmer Income Stability Supplement



KNOWLEDGE & TRAINING

12. Fund farmer-to-farmer training and research
13. Bolster mentorships programs
14. Grow on-farm apprenticeships
15. Restore coordinated Extension Services



COMMUNITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

16. Facilitate recruitment, training and retention
17. Guarantee pathways to citizenship for migrant agricultural workers
18. Support farm succession planning
19. Invest in local food infrastructure
20. Invest in rural communities
21. Enhance mental health supports

¹ Qualman, D., Akram-Lodhi, A., Desmarais, A., and Srinivasan, S. "Forever young? The crisis of generational renewal on Canada's farms." Canadian Food Studies 5(3) 100-127 (2018)

² Statistics Canada, [Table 32-10-0230-01 Characteristics of farm operators, Census of Agriculture historical data](#) (2024)