**Keeping Canada growing will take the dedication of government, industry, and farmers.**

Like other recent federal elections, agricultural issues will not be front and centre. There aren't many 'battleground' ridings in rural Canada and the parties' attention, and the media tends to focus on the issues that motivate suburban voters. Although agriculture policy will not drive the nightly news coverage in the coming weeks, one agricultural policy issue in the election will significantly impact the fertilizer industry and Canadian farmers over the next decade and beyond.

Instead of mandating an absolute 30 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 and lowering on-farm incomes by tens of billions of dollars, the federal government should recognize and embrace the proven 4R approach already being used to reduce agricultural emissions and support industry-led initiatives like our fertilizer S.A.F.E program.

Fertilizer Canada is calling on all the parties and candidates to ensure recognize the contributions of the agriculture industry in Canada and embrace policies within their campaigns that support the following priorities:

**Priorities:**

1. **Choose 4R Nutrient Stewardship** as the foundation for any strategy to reduce emissions in the agricultural sector, which will provide farmers with the opportunity to increase yields in a sustainable way. Canadians should not have to choose between food and the environment.
2. **Declare agricultural inputs as essential goods**, similar to grain, under the Canada Labour Code so that these time-sensitive products that allow us to feed billions of people are not impacted by a single protracted labour negotiation.
3. **Support industry-led initiatives**, like our *Fertilize S.A.F.E.* program*,* which goes above and beyond government laws and regulation, and make Canada a global leader in sustainable and secure supply chains.
4. **Strengthen industry climate investments** by designing the OBPS revenue recycling program to return funds to the sectors that pay them, which will encourage climate investments in the industries that require significant funds to reduce emissions.
5. **Aggressively pursue and conclude new Free Trade Agreements** that will open new markets to Canadian goods and services; the world needs more Canada.

By supporting and acknowledging these priorities, politicians will learn how the agricultural community has spent fifteen years developing and refining the tools and knowledge to reduce emissions while maintaining competitiveness and our industry's right to operate.

[Fertilizer Canada has developed a toolkit](https://fertilizercanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FC-ERI-TOOLKIT.pdf) that will equip you and your organization with the tools you need to raise awareness and drive action from your local candidates. I also ask that you please keep us informed about your organization's efforts to support this campaign so Fertilizer Canada can recognize and amplify them!

Cheers,

Karen Proud

President and CEO