



Organic Federation of Canada Fédération biologique du Canada

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Organic Federation of Canada Thrilled at the Federal Government's Support for Canadian Organic Production

The Organic Federation of Canada is very supportive of today's announcement by Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, that the federal government will be making an important contribution to the Canadian organic sector. In his announcement, the Minister confirmed that Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food will fund the review of the Canadian Organic Standards.

Organic agriculture feeds Canadians while preserving the quality of the water and the health of the soils where our food is grown. It prohibits the use of synthetic inputs and promotes animal welfare. These ecological practices, which are valued by consumers from our country and around the world, are prescribed by the Canadian Organic Standards. The standards must be revised and updated every five years – a review that, as Minister MacAulay has just announced, will be funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

“An up-to-date Canadian Organic Standard is crucial to the success of the Canadian organic industry. Both Canadian consumers and foreign buyers must be assured that organic practices are ecologically sound and consistent with current scientific knowledge. The rapidly growing Canadian organic industry depends on a sound Canadian Organic Standard. We thank the government of Canada for recognizing this through funding the review of the Canadian Organic Standards.” Jim Robbins, the President of the OFC.

This support from the Canadian government will allow the organic sector to pursue the expansion of organic production in Canada in compliance with updated production standards as required by international standardization procedures. It will stimulate local consumption as well as Canadian exports of organic products.

Our government's announcement today brings them in line with other key jurisdictions, such as the USA and the EU, which already provide this support to their respective organic sectors. Canadian organic operators certainly appreciate Minister MacAulay's commitment.

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The Organic Federation of Canada is a national association whose mandate is the maintenance and interpretation of the Canadian Organic Standards, and the management of scientific research in organic agriculture in Canada.

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