

Erin O'Toole

What is your position on open markets in the grain sector, where many players compete vigorously for farmers' business, including in farm inputs and farm products?

One of the most important actions that our last Conservative government took was the elimination of the Wheat Board's monopoly, because farmers, like others, should be free to compete. I stand for freedom for grain farmers. I also believe that the government should act to preserve competition.

What is your position on free and competitive markets in international trade, including the elimination of export subsidies, reduction of trade-distorting domestic support, and reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers that inhibit market access?

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade, I worked to open markets around the world to Canadian agricultural products. This included working on the free trade agreement with Europe. As Prime Minister, I will continue working to open more international markets for our farmers.

What is your position on a commercial and efficient grain transportation system, recognizing the need for government regulation to foster greater service, competition, and accountability in the rail sector?

An efficient grain transportation system is essential for a country like Canada, with our size and with the importance of our grain and other farm sectors located thousands of miles from ports. The natural monopoly position of the major railroads makes government regulation essential.

What is your position on the development of agricultural innovations that make farmers more profitable and sustainable, with a science-based regulatory approval process for the introduction of new technologies, including the adoption of genetically modified crops?

I believe that public policy should be guided by sound science. The science is settled - genetically modified crops are safe. We should make regulatory decisions based on science, not liberal superstition.

What is your position on a carbon pricing system, including on a credit and debit system that acknowledges the significant carbon reductions being achieved by prairie grain growers?

I believe in recognizing the critical environmental stewardship provided by Canadian farmers and rewarding them for the positive impacts they have on wetlands conservation, carbon sequestration, reforestation, species protection and maintaining pollinator habitat.

As Prime Minister, what would your top five priorities be for farmers and the agriculture industry in Canada?

As leader of the Conservative Party, I will fight for our farm families by:

1. protecting supply management for our dairy and poultry farms while maintaining commitments made by the Conservative government to dairy and poultry sectors resulting from import changes coming from the CETA and TPP trade deals;
2. ending the Liberal carbon tax which will drive up farm input costs like diesel fuel, natural gas, fertilizer, transportation and electricity;
3. gaining more market access for our livestock, grain and oilseed producers in our free trade negotiations;
4. supporting more agriculture research and the harmonization of farm product regulations with our trading partners; and
5. ensuring our farm safety net programs are predictable, bankable and manageable.