

Michael Chong

**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?**

I believe in open markets for the grains and oilseeds sector. Farmers in the grains and oilseeds sector should be able to market their products to whoever they want. That is why I voted in favour of eliminating the Canadian Wheat Board monopoly.

There should be open and vigorous competition for farm inputs. That is why I will ensure that the federal Competition Bureau has the resources and tools to ensure adequate competition for farmers' business, and to ensure that large corporations do not engage in anti-competitive behaviour or monopolistic approaches.

**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?**

I support the expansion of free trade for Canada's grains and oilseeds farmers. My priority will be to expand trade in Asia-Pacific, beginning with a bilateral free trade deal with Japan. Opening up new markets for Canada's farmers is critical to ensuring that they get top dollar for their product. It is also critical to reducing the risk of an over reliance on one country or one customer.

**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?**

Canada needs an efficient, commercial grain handling transportation system. My government will come forward with a strategy to ensure that an adequate fleet of rail cars are available to transport grain to international markets, as well as the renewal of the aging grain car fleet.

**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 support a science-based regulatory approval process for the introduction of new technologies, including the adoption of genetically modified crops. Science-based evidence, rather than politics, should determine whether new technologies are approved.

**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 support a carbon pricing system which includes a credit and debit system that acknowledges the significant carbon reductions being achieved by prairie grain growers. Farmers should be able to sell these credits on the open market.

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

As Prime Minister, my top priority will be to continue to open up new free-trade markets for our pork, beef, greens and oil seeds farmers, while at the same time defending Canada's system of supply management for our dairy, poultry, turkey and egg farmers. This was the approach taken by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and it was a successful and balanced approach.