



# PIERRE LEMIEUX

DEMOCRACY • FAMILY • SECURITY

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to your questions regarding Canadian agriculture. I am happy to provide the answers below in response to the issues that you have raised on behalf of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers.



**Pierre Lemieux**  
Conservative Party Leadership Candidate

**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?**

As the Member of Parliament of a rural, agriculture-based riding in Ontario, I had the honour of serving as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture for 6 years. The Honourable Gerry Ritz was the Minister throughout this entire time and I was his longest serving Parliamentary Secretary.

During this time, I worked tirelessly with Minister Ritz and with Minister Fast (Minister of International Trade) to end the Canadian Wheat Board monopoly and to promote our high quality Canadian agricultural products internationally. And we succeeded! - in offering our western grain farmers marketing freedom, in opening new markets for our farmers and in improving market conditions allowing Canadian farmers to achieve success.

**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 am a strong proponent of international trade, which allows our Canadians competitive access to world-wide markets. When traveling internationally on behalf of our Canadian farmers, I witness the regard that other countries have for our high quality, competitively priced Canadian agricultural products. They want to our Canadian agricultural products!

Having been the longest serving Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture in our last Conservative government, my experience from having traveled across our country is that Canadians strongly support our Canadian farmers and they want our farmers to succeed. Canadians want to support Canadian farmers by purchasing their products – and this includes dairy, chicken, egg and turkey products.

As a Conservative government, we succeeded in both opening international markets for our export-focused farmers and in ensuring that supply management remained intact.

My position as Leader of the Conservative Party and as future Prime Minister of Canada is to support all of our hard-working Canadian farmers and the entire Canadian agricultural sector by opening international markets to our farmers while supporting farmers that rely on our domestic markets.

**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?**

We need an effective and highly efficient grain transportation system to ensure that Canadian farmers can move their products to market. A strong service-driven rail sector – both long haul and short haul – is essential to the success of our agriculture sector.

As Leader and future Prime Minister of Canada, I would ensure that regulations and legislation are in place to foster a grain transportation system that is responsive to customers and for which there is accountability.

**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 have an engineering degree, I am a Professional Engineer and I have a Master of Science. I have a great respect for science and know that science is essential to the success of our Canadian agriculture sector. Throughout my years as Parliament Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, we worked together to advance and promote science-based technology, innovation and decision-making.

As Leader and future Prime Minister of Canada, I will advance important regulatory and legislative initiatives encouraging and promoting science-based technologies across the agriculture sector.

**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 am opposed to carbon-pricing systems as they ultimately inflict financial and economic harm on Canadians, on our economy and therefore on farmers. Farmers do best in a strong healthy national economy – an economy focused on reduced government spending, low taxes and job growth. Carbon-pricing schemes damage our economy.

As Leader and as future Prime Minister of Canada, I will repeal carbon pricing systems and any federal carbon tax. This position is very strongly supported by Canadians.

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

As Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada and as future Prime Minister of Canada, my top 5 priorities in support of our Canadian agriculture industry would be:

- **Access to International Markets.** A strong focus on the opening of international markets via free-trade agreements. More market access ensures the success of Canadian farmers.
- **Transporting Products to Market.** Initiatives to ensure an effective and highly efficient grain transportation system to help Canadian farmers move their products to both international and domestic markets.

- **Promotion of Science.** The promotion of science and technology as essential to the success of our agriculture industry. Positive outcomes of a pro-science and technology strategy are: higher productivity, lower input costs, higher quality produce, better yields, and reduced losses – all of which result in our agriculture industry being more competitive.
- **Repealing carbon schemes, as they ultimately hurt farmers.** Carbon pricing and carbon taxes will penalize farmers through: higher on-farm energy costs (fuel, diesel, electricity), an increased cost to transport their products to market and reduced purchasing power amongst their customers. I will repeal carbon schemes and taxes.
- **Focus on building a strong, healthy Canadian economy.** A strong, healthy Canadian economy is essential to the success of farmers. I will reduce government spending, lower personal taxes, cut business taxes and focus on job creation.

The success of our Canadian agriculture industry is vital to the success of Canada. I have valuable experience with our Canadian agriculture sector and the policies and initiatives above demonstrate my tremendous respect and support for our Canadian farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pierre', written in a cursive style.

**Pierre Lemieux**  
**Conservative Party Leadership Candidate**