

Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area
Federal Authority Advice Record: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Submitted: September 9, 2025

Response requested to regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca by September 12, 2025

1. MANDATE AND AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) supports the sector through initiatives that promote innovation and competitiveness, and that proactively manage risk. The Department's goal is to position agriculture, agri-food and agri-based product industries to realize their full potential by seizing new opportunities in the growing domestic and global marketplace. The Department supports the sector from the farmer to the consumer, from the farm to global markets, through all phases of producing, processing and marketing of farm, food and agri-based products. Agriculture is a shared jurisdiction in Canada, and the Department works closely with provincial and territorial governments in the development and delivery of policies, programs and services.

2. REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

N/A

3. EXPERT INFORMATION OR KNOWLEDGE

AAFC's Science and Technology Branch (STB) mandate is science and innovation to support the agriculture sector in Canada. Research and development is done by scientists in AAFC's nation-wide network, and the results are developed into services and information for the sector, to strengthen the industry in all facets of environmental, social and economic performance.

AAFC's Market and Industry Services Branch (MISB) supports the economic growth and long-term prosperity of the agriculture and agri-food industry domestically and internationally. MISB supports sector development, advances agricultural interests in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations and works closely with industry to foster a competitive agriculture sector.

In terms of this project specifically, AAFC could also be helpful in contributing general agricultural knowledge and information, including related to northern agriculture in Canada (eg. greenhouses) and food security (eg. long term food storage), as well as a regional perspective.

4. POLICIES, PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES

AAFC has a variety of Programs and services supporting innovation, sustainable farming, business development, risk management, trade and market development ([Agricultural programs and services - agriculture.canada.ca](https://www.agriculture.canada.ca)). One Program example relevant to community food security and northern communities, is the Local Food Infrastructure Fund ([Local Food](#)

[Infrastructure Fund – Small Scale Projects: 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca](#)) which is in its final Program intake, and is set to end on March 31, 2027.

The Food Policy for Canada ([The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](#)) was launched as a framework to align and coordinate federal food-related initiatives and address critical challenges facing Canada's food systems to improve social, health, environmental and economic outcomes. It acknowledges that food systems are interconnected and integral to the wellbeing of communities, including northern and Indigenous communities, public health, environmental sustainability, and the strength of the economy.

5. Outline any additional responsibilities, information or knowledge and any partners or collaborations that have not been specified, above.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) is a \$3.5-billion, 5-year agreement (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028), between the federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. The agreement includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and \$2.5 billion in cost-shared programs and activities funded by federal, provincial and territorial governments ([Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership - agriculture.canada.ca](#)). Cost-share funding is where the governments of Ontario and Canada contribute a portion of the total project cost, and the applicant contributes the remaining amount ([Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership | ontario.ca](#)).