

February 10, 2026

Public Services and Procurement Canada

Submitted online and via email to spac.apcommunicationdesac-papaccommunications.pspc@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

Dear Public Services and Procurement Canada officials,

Re: Buy Canadian Policy Framework

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), thank you for the opportunity to participate in the consultation process for Buy Canadian Policy Framework. OFA is pleased to see that Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is prioritizing the procurement of high-quality Canadian products for the public service and will highlight the need to increase access to Canadian grown local food in federal institutions, including Correctional Services Canada, the Department of National Defence, and the Canadian Coast Guard.

OFA is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing more than 38,000 farm family members. OFA has a strong voice for our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations administered by all levels of government. We are dedicated to ensuring that the agri-food sector and rural communities are considered and consulted with for any new or changing legislation that would impact the sustainability and growth of our farm businesses.

OFA sees the review of federal procurement as an opportunity to highlight the high-quality, nutritious, locally grown food produced by Canadian farmers. While not explicitly referenced in the consultation documents (Policy on Prioritizing Canadian Suppliers and Canadian Content in Strategic Federal Procurements, the Policy on Prioritizing Canadian Materials in Federal Procurements, and the Policy on Reciprocal Procurement), food procurement represents an existing, reoccurring federal purchasing stream that directly supports the same resilience and security objectives underpinning this initiative.

OFA puts forward the following recommendations to enable an agri-food specific focus in federal procurement while maintaining the best value for money, especially in sectors of strategic importance, including defence:

- **Update the National Food and Beverage Procurement Strategy to prioritize the acquisition of Canadian grown food.**
- **Recognize agri-food as a strategic procurement category, fueling key industries such as defence.**

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- **Integrate local food procurement goals in the Request for Proposals stage by embedding content considerations for the inclusion of Canadian grown food, followed by reporting standards within contracts.**
 - **Conduct Food Origin Audits to develop targets to increase the supply of local food in contracts.**
 - **Develop a comprehensive communication strategy targeted at local agri-food producers and processors, including vendor fairs and procurement workshops.**
 - **Streamline the procurement process to make participation for small and medium sized agri-food businesses more accessible, aligning with the seasonal nature of food production and size of operations.**
 - **Appoint a Local Food Champion for Procurement.**

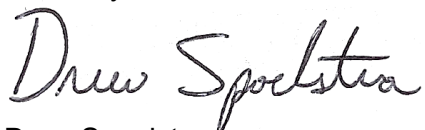
Moving towards the launch of the Small and Medium Business Procurement Program in spring 2026, the above recommendations will inform a strategic path forward on strengthening the accessibility of federal procurement opportunities for businesses along the agri-food value chain.

OFA encourages the federal government's Buy Canadian initiative to collaborate with provincial governments and their procurement initiatives, such as the Ontario government's Buy Ontario Act ratified in December 2025, and Ontario's Local Food Act, 2013. Similar strategies can be employed to break down barriers that limit access to locally grown, made and manufactured products utilized by the public service, namely in communication efforts and procurement policy improvements.

As the PSPC advances Buy Canadian objectives, there should be recognition for Canada's agri-food sector. We note that food is a strategic procurement asset that supports national security, supply chain resilience and domestic economic stability.

OFA appreciates the opportunity to provide our feedback and perspectives on the Buy Canadian Policy. We look forward to the Spring 2026 launch of a Small and Medium Business Procurement Program and working with the federal government to break down systemic barriers that prohibit access to local food in public institutions.

Sincerely,



Drew Spoelstra
President

cc: Keith Currie, President, The Canadian Federation of Agriculture
OFA Board of Directors

This submission has been approved by OFA Board of Directors and will be posted to OFA's website:
<https://ofa.on.ca/resources>.