

This federal election, vote to PROTECT FOOD SOVEREIGNTY



By signing the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America and launching the Smart Regulation initiative in the Spring of 2005, Paul Martin and the federal government are leading Canada to a more integrated food system with the United States.

Below is a comparison of the future of food safety, production and regulation under a deep integration model versus a food sovereignty model.

Deep Integration Model

U.S.-based corporations such as Cargill, Tyson, Monsanto, and Wal-Mart control food production, processing and distribution.

The Canadian regulatory system is aligned with the U.S. regulatory system, integrating U.S. and Canadian food and agriculture markets.

Canada's factory farms and feedlots produce much more than Canadians can consume, thus are highly dependent on U.S. markets for exports of livestock and meat.

Factory farming is closely tied to the U.S. pharmaceutical industry, due to use of antibiotics and hormones in factory farm production.

NAFTA limits Canada's ability to make our own policy decisions in regard to food and agriculture.

U.S. farm subsidies undercut prices to Canadian farmers, putting independent farmers out of business, resulting in increased concentration of ownership and increased use of factory farming methods.

Over 80 per cent of Canadian beef is slaughtered and processed by two U.S. corporations: Tyson and Cargill.

The centralization of production to fewer and larger factory farms, and of processing to a few giant slaughterhouses increases the risk of catastrophic disease outbreaks.

Food Sovereignty Model

Community, democratic and local control of food production, processing and distribution.

A regulatory system designed to promote the health of our citizens and sustainable food production by our farmers.

Production is designed to meet Canadian needs and respect the rights of other countries to maintain food security. This includes diverse export markets and a smaller proportion of total production, maintaining the highest standards for health, environmental protection, worker safety and the humane treatment of animals.

In keeping with highest standards for food safety, the routine use of antibiotics and artificial hormones as growth promoters is prohibited.

Canadian agriculture and food policies are exempt from NAFTA.

Canada opposes agricultural "dumping" by U.S. producers. A fair income for farmers is a principle built into a national sustainable agriculture policy.

A network of small and medium-sized local and regional slaughterhouses provides access to markets for independent family farmers, reducing transportation costs and GHG emissions.

Local and regional processing and marketing reduce the risk of disease outbreaks because problems can easily be confined to a small area.

This federal election, demand that candidates support independent food safety, production and regulation systems in Canada.

Visit www.canadians.org to download the Council of Canadians' Voter's Guide, and see where the parties stand on food regulation. Or call 1-800-387-7177 for more information.