

Canada to develop new food policy

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Michael McCain, CEO and president Maple Leaf Foods said: "I applaud the federal government's leadership and consultative approach to building a national food policy as the foundation for a more sustainable food system. But governments can't do it all – business and civil society must engage and be part of the solution. An inclusive National Food Policy Council is the best way to drive bold action on the strength of evidence and collaboration."

The government anticipates that its new food policy would support its agri-food economic growth targets while integrating critical food security, safety, and environmental sustainability requirements.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food has also recommended a series of actions to support the development of A Food Policy for Canada.

The report released by the committee suggested that the government must create a permanent advisory council consisting of multiple stakeholders.

Ron Bonnett, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture said: "A national food policy is a long-standing priority for Canadian farmers. CFA supports a multi-stakeholder governing council as a means of ensuring that farmers have a place at the food policy development table.

"We see it as an important forum for sharing perspectives and encouraging dialogue. Through joint discussions, we can clarify misperceptions and identify opportunities where farmers can help meet emerging consumer demands."