[Your name]

[Your organization]

[Your address]

Re: Congratulations on behalf of [Your organization’s name]

Dear name of MP;

On behalf of [Your organization’s name], we are writing to congratulate you on your success in the recent federal election and being elected as Member of Parliament of [Your Riding].

During the election, we were delighted to see the Conservative’s platform commitments including: a food security strategy; developing community-based marine fisheries with Inuit governments and communities; upholding supply management; improving Nutrition North; and a summit between agricultural stakeholders and the Agricultural Minister. By standing by your platform and holding to your values, we believe you and Conservative MPs across the country can play a major role in transforming food systems for the better.

As an organization actively working on [insert your organization’s mission or main activities], we know first-hand the impact food issues can have on our community. In [Your Riding], we identified the following topics as particularly important: [list and describe topics].

We are writing with a time-related request **for a meeting with you in the early new year to share why we think these issues are so important** and to **discuss what you believe are the best next steps in [the changes you want to see]**.

The third edition of Food Secure Canada’s [Eat Think Vote](https://www.eatthinkvote.ca/) campaign gathered communities and candidates to talk about food ahead of the election. The conversations during this campaign demonstrated the growing level of awareness and concern citizens have regarding the impacts of food on our health, environment, and economy. Individuals coast-to-coast-to-coast are demanding change, and our community is no exception. We urge you to act on the ALL of the six interrelated food-system issues addressed in FSC’s Eat Think Vote policy proposals: addressing the root cause of food insecurity, building resilient local food systems, supporting Indigenous food sovereignty, championing decent work & justice for workers all along the food chain, ensuring all voices are including and advancing a school food program for Canada. We have included additional information on each of these topics in an appendix to this letter.

**Please let me know if we can meet in the new year or if you would like more information about Food Secure Canada’s policy proposals.** We look forward to working with you to [work on aforementioned issues, *ex. build a healthier, more just and sustainable food system*] in [Your Riding] and for all Canadians. You can contact me at [include your contact information].

Sincerely,

[Your name]

Bcc. campaign@foodsecurecanada.org

**Appendix – Policy Recommendations**

**Addressing the root causes of food insecurity**

* Many more Canadians became food insecure during the COVID pandemic. Just as you championed the right to housing, we ask you to guarantee the right to food according to Canada’s ratification of the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A rights-based approach, rather than a charitable model, should underpin a suite of coherent measures to end food insecurity by 2030, and to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.
* Food insecurity is primarily related to poverty and systemic inequities and a healthy diet has increasingly become restricted to the privileged. Please tackle the root causes through a universal livable minimum income floor and by ensuring access to healthy, affordable food through publicly funded programs.
* Furthermore, private sector opposition blocked your previous efforts to stop the marketing of highly processed food to kids and to introduce front of pack labelling to promote healthier eating. Thank you for recommitting to getting them done in your election platform. We ask you to measure all your policy and program interventions against the benchmark of ensuring that everyone can afford and source healthy, sustainably-produced, culturally-appropriate food, in line with Canada’s Food Guide.

**Building resilient local food systems**

* In the context of climate change and the ongoing collapse of biodiversity, we need to build resilient, ecological local food chains that shorten and diversify food chains, revitalize communities, ensure greater access to healthy and fresh foods, support lower-emissions food systems, build greater resiliency to shocks and reduce food loss and waste.
* We support Farmers for Climate Solutions in advocating that the forthcoming, new Agricultural Policy Framework be climate-focused. We will work with the federal government and across the food movement to build solutions and policies that are good for farmers, people and the planet.
* Tackling food loss and waste is urgent and important, but it is a supply chain issue that should not be conflated with tackling food insecurity, which is about realising the right to food and dignified access, not charity models.

**Supporting Indigenous food sovereignty**

* As part of your commitment to reconciliation, it is time for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities to take back control to determine their place-based food systems, as well as the policies that will best support resilient futures.
* As you once again amend the Nutrition North program, please reform it “in partnership with Inuit into a program that is designed to address the drivers of food insecurity and uphold the right to adequate food” as outlined in the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy. The same would apply to First Nations and Métis.

**Championing decent work and justice for workers all along the food chain**

* We support permanent residency status on arrival as the best way to guarantee the rights, safety and well-being of workers arriving from overseas to our fields, abattoirs and processing plants.

**Ensuring everyone is at the table**

* Ensure adequate representation, particularly by Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPoC) communities, and effectively resource the work of the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council - including honoraria for participants who might not be able to participate otherwise and an independent research budget - to have meaningful and impactful policy influence.
* Recognising the risks of decorative multi-stakeholderism, and the other roundtables, strategy tables and lobbying avenues through which private interests can dominate policy-making, ensure that the Council and other mechanisms that represent the public interest and evidence-based policy making have more influence.

**Advancing a school food program for Canada**

* We commend to you the principles and proposals of the Coalition for Healthy School Food, which we host, as explained in the letter sent on September 24 and towards the immediate fulfillment of your costed election platform pledge. Please see Growing resilience and equity: A food policy action plan in the context of Covid-19 (May 2020) for a more comprehensive analysis, rooted in policy proposals that emerged from the food movement, and Eat Think Vote 2021.