

SPEECH FOR MINISTER MARIE-CLAUDE BIBEAU MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA UN FOOD SYSTEMS PRE-SUMMIT

- Vos Excellences,
- Hauts représentants du monde entier provenant :
 - du secteur privé, de la société civile, du milieu universitaire et du secteur agricole;
 - et amis et hôtes à Rome,

Thank you for making this important event a reality.

I am joining you today from the traditional territory of the Abenaki People and the Wabenaki confederacy, here in my home province of Quebec, Canada.

I'm honoured to represent Canada today, as we gather to debate, collaborate, and take action on sustainable food systems.

Over the past four months, **member-state and independent dialogues have been held** right across Canada, working to build collaboration on our vision for more healthy, inclusive, and resilient food systems.

Canada looks forward to drawing on these dialogues and the broader work on our national pathway leading up to the Summit.

This **inclusive approach** to food systems change is **at the heart** of our **Food Policy for Canada**.

Our shared vision of the policy is that *people in Canada are able to access a sufficient amount of safe, nutritious, and culturally-diverse food.*

And that Canada's food systems are resilient and innovative, help sustain our environment and support our economy.

We share the Summit's ambition to bring forward **bold actions, solutions and strategies** to make progress on **all 17 Sustainable Development Goals**.

As well as economic sustainability, we are focussing on **environmental sustainability**. We see urgently the need to take action to address climate change and to protect the environment, both vital to a resilient food system.

In Canada, we are investing in new technologies and farming practices to advance the use of regenerative agriculture and improve soil and water conservation.

We've also launched innovative challenges to reduce food loss and waste.

We are also focusing on **social sustainability** to ensure that our food systems are inclusive.

We recognize the need to break down barriers so that more women, Indigenous Peoples, youth and other underrepresented groups have equal opportunities to fully participate in our agriculture and food sector.

We are working in **full partnership** with Indigenous Peoples to support self-determination, close socio-economic gaps, eliminate barriers and strengthen food security.

In partnership with our Inuit partners, we have co-developed the Harvesters Support Grant. The Harvesters Support Grant helps alleviate the financial burden associated with traditional hunting and gathering practices in the North.

This grant is one example of how Canada is working to redress inequities in Canada's food systems, including the root causes and specific obstacles that result in high levels of food insecurity amongst Black and Indigenous people, as well as women.

The current food security crisis is the single largest increase in human hunger ever recorded. We need to get back on track, and quickly, if we want to achieve Zero Hunger.

De plus, nous devons aussi veiller à ce que nos industries des produits agricoles, alimentaires et de la mer soient **durables sur le plan économique**.

Par conséquent, il faut un environnement commercial mondial fondé **sur des règles et la science** pour que les aliments puissent être acheminés là où ils sont nécessaires et que les agriculteurs aient accès aux outils et aux technologies dont ils ont besoin.

Every nation plays a part in shaping long-term positive change in **all** aspects of society, including our food systems. **Everyone's voice matters.**

On behalf of Canada's Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, on behalf of our farmers and seafood producers and processors and all Canadians -- thank you.

And let's keep the dialogue going!