**Agriculture & Agri-food Student Policy Brief Competition**

 **Instructions**

**Background (Choose ONE topic)**

**Topic 1: Agriculture and Climate Change**

In 2015, many countries, including Canada, committed to limiting global temperature increases to a maximum of 1.5-degree Celsius. In addition, Canada has committed to net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. Agriculture and Agri-food (AAFC) Canada’s Minister has asked for a briefing on two to three GHG mitigation options in the agricultural sector and seeks a recommendation on the best option when taking into consideration economic efficiency and stakeholder impacts.

**Topic 2: Agriculture and Changing Consumer Preferences**

Alternative protein products are sought after not only by core vegan or vegetarian consumers, but also by more and more shoppers aspiring to have a healthier diet or following a flexitarian lifestyle. AAFC’s Minister has asked for a briefing to summarize both the key challenges and potential growth opportunities facing alternative protein producers. Your note should also include how traditional meat/food companies are responding to the growth of the alternative protein market.

**Topic 3: Agriculture and Trade**

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural and food sector has exposed the vulnerabilities of the supply chain, although the agricultural and food sector has proven to be relatively resilient. Despite this resilience, concerns remain about the future of the sector given the ongoing pandemic and supply chain issues. AAFC’s Minister has asked for a briefing note describing how the agricultural and food sector could further improve its resilience in the face of the global shock from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Topic 4: Agriculture and Labour**

Farm labour issues are frequently raised by industry and the media. COVID-19 has added a new dimension to the set of challenges and policy questions. Issues that are raised are the lack of Canadians to work on farms; the role of temporary foreign workers in the agriculture and food value chain; and the labour intensity of some sectors. Industry stakeholders indicate that lack of labour is hindering the growth of the agriculture and food industry in Canada. AAFC’s Minister has asked for a briefing note that summarizes the key challenges, as well as potential policy solutions, associated with farm labour issues. Your note should also identify the key players in industry and government on labour issues and their roles in developing solutions.

**Instructions**

Write a briefing note for the Minister on ONE topic only. The briefing note should not exceed three (3) pages and should help the Minister make an informed decision about the chosen topic. You should use the attached Briefing Note template.

A briefing note consists of several sections which are described in the attached template. Each section of the note has a specific purpose, please read the instructions on the template carefully. Background documents are listed below to help you get started. You may use these as you see fit to help gather the required information for the various parts of the note. The Background section is used for broader context while the Issue section is used to highlight the particular issue over which the Minister will be making informed decisions. The Considerations section can be used to highlight how the issue at hand may have linkages to other issues and policies across the department in particular and government in general, stakeholder reactions/impacts, economic implications, and other practical considerations. The Recommendation section provides your recommended option or path forward, and the reasons for it. The Summary Box is best dealt with once you have completed the main body of the briefing note and is where you bring out the key messages and recommendation.

**Additional Material to submit:**

Along with your completed briefing note please provide at least two references (these will not be included in the page count for the briefing note).

**Submissions**:

Please submit your completed briefing note and references to Jennifer Vignola at jennifer.vignola@agr.gc.ca by Monday, January 10th, 2022 2 P.M. EST

**Background Documents**

Here are some background documents for each topic (you may also use other sources of information):

Topic 1: Agriculture and Climate Change

1. Drever, C. R., Cook-Patton, S. C., Akhter, F., Badiou, P. H., Chmura, G. L., Davidson, S. J., Desjardins, R. L., Dyk, A., Fargione, J. E., Fellows, M., Filewod, B., Hessing-Lewis, M., Jayasundara, S., Keeton, W. S., Kroeger, T., Lark, T. J., Le, E., Leavitt, S. M., LeClerc, M.-E., Lemprière, T. C., Metsaranta, J., McConkey, B., Neilson, E., St-Laurent, G. P., Puric-Mladenovic, D., Rodrigue, S., Soolanayakanahally, R. Y., Spawn, S. A., Strack, M., Smyth, C., Thevathasan, N., Voicu, M., Williams, C. A., Woodbury, P. B., Worth, D. E., Xu, Z., Yeo, S., & Kurz, W. A. (2021). Natural climate solutions for Canada. *Science Advances*, *7*(23), eabd6034. [https://doi.org/doi:10.1126/sciadv.abd6034](https://doi.org/doi%3A10.1126/sciadv.abd6034)
2. Environment and Climate Change Canada. (2021). *National Inventory Report 1990 - 2019: Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada*. <https://unfccc.int/documents/271493>
3. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2018). *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C*. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>
4. McKinsey & Company. (2020). *Agriculture and Cliamte Change: Reducing Emissions Through Improved Farming Practices*. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/mckinsey/industries/agriculture/our%20insights/reducing%20agriculture%20emissions%20through%20improved%20farming%20practices/agriculture-and-climate-change.pdf>
5. Nature United. (2021). *Natural Climate Solutions: New Science Led by Nature United Reveals Nature Can Deliver Immediate Impact in Canada's Fight to Tackle the Climate Crisis*. <https://www.natureunited.ca/what-we-do/our-priorities/innovating-for-climate-change/natural-climate-solutions/>

Topic 2: Agriculture and Changing Consumer Preferences

1. Good Food Institute. (2021). *Advancing Solutions for Alternative Proteins,*. <https://gfi.org/advancing-solutions-for-alternative-proteins/>
2. Government of Canada. (2019). *Plant-based Protein Market: Global and Canadian Market Analysis*. <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/research-development/research-collaboration/programs/plant-based-protein-market-global-canadian-market-analysis>
3. McKinsey & Company. (2019). *Alternative Proteins: The Race for Market Share Is On*. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/agriculture/our-insights/alternative-proteins-the-race-for-market-share-is-on>
4. Mickinsey & Company. (2021). *Exploring Cultivated Meat*. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/agriculture/our-insights/exploring-cultivated-meat>
5. Ramachandran, A. (2019). *How Big Food Is Responding to the Alternative Protein Boom*. World Economic Forum.

Topic 3: Agriculture and Trade

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2021). *The State of Food and Agriculture 2021*. [https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4476enhttps://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4476en](https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4476enhttps%3A//www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4476en)
2. OECD. (2019). The Changing Landscape of Agricultural Markets and Trade: Prospects for Future Reforms. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/content/paper/7dec9074-en>
3. OECD. (2020). *COVID-19 and the Food and Agriculture Sector: Issues and Policy Responses*. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-and-the-food-and-agriculture-sector-issues-and-policy-responses-a23f764b/>
4. OECD. (2021). *Executive Summary: OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2021-2030*. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/e41f9e13-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/e41f9e13-en>

Topic 4: Agriculture and Labour

1. Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC). (2021). *About CAHRC*. <https://cahrc-ccrha.ca/about>
2. Canadian Federation of Agriculture. (2021). Temporary Foreign Worker Program and Canadian Agriculture. <https://www.cfa-fca.ca/issues/temporary-foreign-worker-program-and-canadian-agriculture/>
3. Hui, A. (2021). Federal Government Oversight Failed to Protect Migrant Workers from Covid-19, Auditor-General Says. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-eighty-per-cent-of-federal-inspections-of-companies-with-migrant/>
4. National Farmers Union of Ontario. (2018). Reframing the Farm Labour Crisis in Ontario. <https://nfuontario.ca/new/farmlabour/reframing-the-farm-labour-crisis/>
5. Statistics Canada. (2020). *Agricultural Employees, 2016 to 2018*. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020033-eng.htm>