

**October 6, 2008**

**A Declaration in Support of Maintaining and Strengthening Canadian Agriculture**

WHEREAS agriculture and farmers are basic to feeding the world;  
AND WHEREAS countries have the basic right to assure the food security of their citizens and the duty to provide fair treatment to those who produce the food;

Jack Layton and all New Democrat candidates declare their support and recognize:

- that an independent, sustainable and viable home-grown food supply is the cornerstone of Canada's economy;
- the need for government to continue its ongoing enabling role to fund industry-led initiatives that benefit the public good such as food safety programs and ecological goods and services;
- the need to invest and address issues in the infrastructure that currently impede competitive growth within the industry such as transportation, trade, research, and tax issues;
- the need to maintain Canada's ability to establish and operate effective orderly marketing systems which enable farmers to earn fair and profitable returns from
- the marketplace, and recognize that it should remain the prerogative of producers collectively to establish and sustain these marketing tools ; and
- the legitimacy of duly elected farm organizations to work collectively with government in the development of agriculture policy.

Sincerely,



Jack Layton

Leader of Canada's New Democrats on behalf of all New Democrat candidates.