

2022 Ontario Election Questionnaire



Food, health and consumer product manufacturers directly employ more than 100,000 people in over 3,100 facilities across the province.

We make safe over-the-counter medications and natural health products that empower Canadians to practice self-care while relieving pressure on the healthcare system. Consumers have trusted FHCP members' brands for more than a century. We transform our agricultural riches into value-added finished goods that feed families here and around the world. We work closely with farmers and serve as a critical link between rural and urban communities.

As the COVID-19 pandemic revealed, our resilience and self-reliance depend on both robust domestic manufacturing and global supply chains for essential products. Recognized as a strategic sector, food, health and consumer product manufacturing have a unique capacity to power Ontario's post-COVID recovery. However, we face significant challenges.

We appreciate you taking the time to review our key priorities and share your views by responding to our questionnaire by May 20, 2022.

Address Labour Shortages

Labour shortages are a challenge for all manufacturers. They are particularly severe in food manufacturing, where almost 28,000 jobs are vacant, leaving 1 in 10 jobs unfilled.

In a latest CME survey, more than 70 per cent of manufacturers cited the availability of labour, as the top barrier for companies to relocate or scale up production in Canada.

1. If elected, will you support policies and initiatives to re-skill disrupted workers and retain and attract highly skilled global talent?

Yes

No

2. Will you support policies that will accelerate access to foreign labour by streamlining the Temporary Foreign Workers Program and increasing economic immigration?

Yes

No

Implement a Grocery Code

In Ontario, unfair grocery retail practices pose an enormous threat to the food, health and consumer products manufacturing sector's competitiveness and long-term growth.

Five (5) companies control more than 80 per cent of grocery and drug store sales, while the largest supplier represents less than three (3) per cent of a large retailer's volume. This market dynamic creates a power imbalance that allows large grocers to unilaterally impose fees and raise costs on suppliers and farmers and leave consumers with more expensive, less innovative choices at the checkout.

Amid rising inflation and supply chain disruptions, grocery retailers continue to introduce new fines and penalties on their suppliers. Our recent survey revealed members experienced a 25 per cent increase in fines. These escalating fines contribute to consumer inflation and food insecurity.

According to a 2021 Abacus poll, 58 per cent of Ontarians believed the fees charged by the large grocery stores impact the price of food and groceries, and a majority agreed that government could help reduce these costs by forcing large retailers to reduce fees to manufacturers.

1. If you are elected, will you support policies that address the power imbalance between food, health and consumer products manufacturers and large grocery retailers to help ensure a stable supply of food and everyday essentials, support our agricultural community and protect jobs?

Yes

No

2. Do you support Ontario adopting a mandatory and enforceable Grocery Code to restore balance and fairness to the retailer-supplier relationship?

Yes

No

Support a Circular Economy for Plastics

Environmental sustainability is a key priority for industry, government and the public. FHCP member companies have an important role in ensuring plastics never become waste. Our industry works with governments and partners across the country to advance a circular economy for plastics.

With the shared goals of a circular economy and the efficient transition of Ontario's Blue Box program to full producer responsibility, the industry requires the support and collaboration of a proactive, engaged partner in government committed to keeping plastics in the economy but out of the environment.

1. If elected, will you support policies that help fund innovation initiatives that offer whole-of-industry solutions, including the innovation of new materials, new processing technologies and increased capacity?

Yes

No