

On July 12, 2021, World Animal Protection sent a survey to Canada's five main political parties about important animal welfare issues in the country. Below is the response submitted by the New Democratic Party of Canada.

Click [here](#) to review the New Democratic Party's platform and see page 51 for their commitment on curbing the wildlife trade and other animal welfare issues.



New Democrats are committed to pursuing a Nature agenda, anchored by our commitment to safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity. We are committed to supporting green initiatives and responsible environmental practices that protect and preserve animals' natural habitats, including our commitment to build a low-carbon economy, aggressively reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the environment by holding plastic polluters accountable.

We are committed to safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity, and ensuring that the Species at Risk Act is enforced. NDP Members of Parliament have led the way on legislation to clean up abandoned vessels and eliminate plastic pollutions, and have played strong leadership roles in ensuring that bills affecting the captivity of whales and dolphins passed through Parliament. Most recently, NDP MP Gord Johns (Courtenay-Alberni) introduced legislation to remove open-net pen fish farms from coastal British Columbia.

In government, New Democrats would take further action to protect wild animals and ecosystems, including putting in place a 10-year plan to reverse species loss, and curbing the import and domestic trade of wild animals in Canada.

We also know that when we talk about protecting the environment and taking care of our health, that means having a conversation about the foods that we eat and where it comes from. New Democrats will invest in agricultural communities, support young and new farmers, and take steps to ensure that rural livelihoods are good and sustainable. We believe that Canada's Food Guide should be based on the best-available nutrition science, as it will inform what our children eat at school, what patients are served in hospitals, how we learn about food and, ultimately, how grocery stores stock their shelves. And we will partner with provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous communities to work towards a national school nutrition program that will give every child in Canada access to healthy food, and the food literacy skills to make healthy choices for life.

We'll work with farmers and food producers to develop a National Food Policy, making food systems stronger all across the country – including food labelling and traceability, so that Canadians can be confident in what they're purchasing to put on their family's plate. This means exploring and supporting efforts that support plant-based farming and business initiatives, in line with Canada's Food Guide.

The way we grow crops, raise livestock and use food also has an impact on our climate future, nutrition for all Canadians, and the welfare of animals. We'll work to connect communities to farmers through local food hubs and develop a national food waste strategy to reduce the huge amounts of food that go to waste. We'll also partner with farmers and communities to support biodiversity and to monitor and protect pollinator health.