



September 26, 2008

RE: Food Safety First Commitment

Attached please find the response of Canada's New Democrats to your 2008 Election questionnaire. It is the policy of our party to respond on behalf of all New Democrat candidates.

Our full platform will be released shortly and our web site is updated with all of our latest information. To find out more, we encourage you to consult: www.ndp.ca

Thank you for your interest in the views of Canada's New Democrats on the critical issues facing Canadians.

We appreciate your efforts to help voters make an informed decision on voting day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jack Layton
Leader of Canada's New Democrats

Hire 1000 additional inspectors and veterinarians to improve compliance

A New Democrat government would substantially increase the number of food safety inspectors and veterinarians, however assigning an arbitrary number prior to a proper review of the size of the problem would not be good governance as this figure may not actually reflect the number of personnel needed to ensure food safety. Our government will also ensure food inspectors and veterinarians are actually spending time on the floor and not filling out paperwork.

Place an immediate moratorium on industry self-policing policies

New Democrats are disturbed that the Conservatives are willing to jeopardize the health and safety of Canadians, by privatizing food inspection just to save a few dollars is not acceptable. New Democrats strongly believe that a central role of government is to ensure the health and safety of Canadians. We are strongly opposed to the changes to Canada's Food Inspection Agency wrought by Liberal and Conservative governments.

New Democrats would ensure Canada's food inspection system has the necessary resources to ensure the food Canadians eat is safe. Later in this election, New Democrats will be releasing a comprehensive plan for food safety and agriculture.

Remove obstacles preventing CFIA inspectors & vets from taking immediate action.

Preventing any kind of safety inspector from taking immediate action makes a mockery of the entire idea of independent inspection. New Democrats would ensure that CFIA inspectors and veterinarians have the necessary authority and resources to keep the food Canadians eat safe.

Restore the system of public audit reports which were cancelled under pressure from the meat industry.

A New Democrat government would reverse the harmful, cavalier and foolhardy actions of the Harper Conservatives and restore full public accountability of Canada's food industry.