





CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY

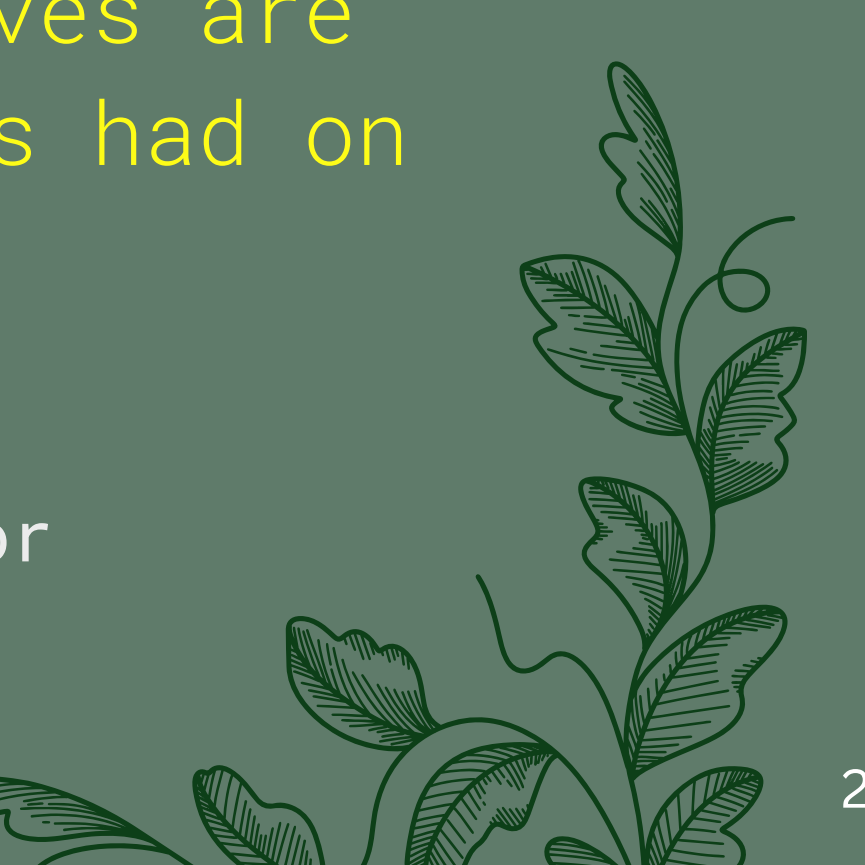

FROM THE SECOND
WORLD WAR TO THE
NEW MILLENNIUM

PRESENTATION BY ANDREA KOBETIC

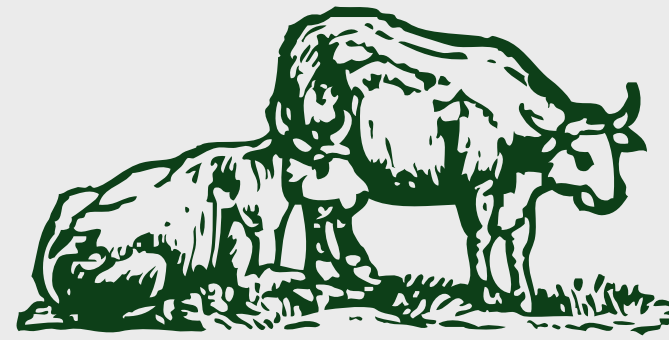


There are many policies and agreements discussed
in Modules 1-3.

Please take your time going through them: pay
special attention to which areas are discussed
in each policy, what subjects/perspectives are
missing, and reflect on what effects this had on
contemporary policy.



You can either jot down your reflections or
simply bear them in mind!



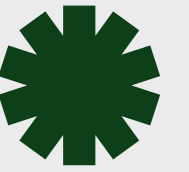
This module is intended to give you a broad understanding of how agricultural policy developed over the course of Canadian history.

If any of the topics discussed pique your interest and you would like to explore them more thoroughly, you can refer to the number in the top right-hand corner that corresponds with a journal article cited in the final 'References' slide. There is a lot of interesting and useful information in these articles that is not presented here for the sake of concision.

Happy learning!

SECOND WORLD WAR (1939–1945)

SECOND WORLD WAR (1939–1945)



During the early years of the war, the government along with private agencies created the Canadian Nutritional Programme (CNP).

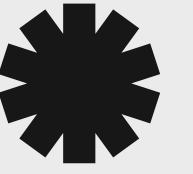
First instance of a large-scale nutritional initiative in Canadian history that related good nutrition on the domestic front with success in military operations abroad.

Providing nutritious food for oneself and one's family was presented as a civic duty.

This program serves as an example of the increasing state intervention in agricultural and food sectors.

The development of the CNP was not only motivated by the fears of an unhealthy, poorly fed Canadian population that had surfaced in the early 1930s but also by fears of malnutrition in soldiers and wartime industry workers.

Although the ties between nutrition and patriotism in public messaging ended in 1945, the tools that were developed during the war such as the Food Rules (a precursor to the American Food Guide that would later become extremely popular in Canada) and measurement systems relating malnutrition with reduced productivity persisted into the following decade.



POSTWAR ERA

POSTWAR ERA




The prevalence of nutrition experts in federal and provincial programs during the war continued in the post-war era.

A key conception of nutrition that persisted after 1945 in government discourse was that malnutrition was an issue of insufficient education rather than a socioeconomic issue.

Canadian Wheat Board (CWB)

Marketing through the CWB became required during wartime and this continued until the CWB was dissolved in 2012.

The interventionist agricultural policy approach of the post-WWII era involved strong state assistance and intervention, as seen here with the CWB.



The state assistance paradigm that developed in the post-war era is present up until and continuing on after the new millennium, though some programmatic change occurs.

According to Grace Skogstad (2008), the central ideas in this paradigm are that:

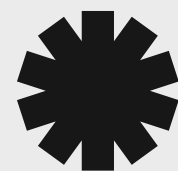
- 1) “Agriculture is an exceptional sector in some important respects”
- 2) “Public policy goals can only be realized by government expenditure and regulatory intervention in the sector”



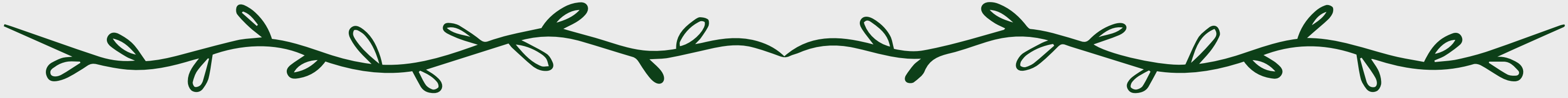
“

IN PRACTICE,
'AGRICULTURAL
EXCEPTIONALISM'
RHETORIC REFERS TO
THE RISKS THAT
PRODUCERS UNDERTAKE
IN THEIR WORK, AND
IN HOW THEY ARE
DISADVANTAGED BY
THE MARKET

PAUSE



Take a moment to reflect on how agricultural exceptionalism rhetoric in public policy and political messaging may have impacted consumer-producer relationships.



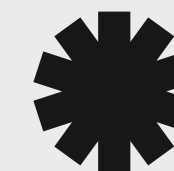
This theory was used as justification for greater governmental involvement in the market with goals of “supporting commodity prices, raising farm incomes, and shielding producers from market forces” (Skogstad, 2008).

It is important to note that all three of these objectives are intended to support producers, although there were also food policy at this time aimed at protecting consumers.

At the same time, agricultural policy also became more protectionist in response to the increasingly protectionist policies of other countries.

CONTINUED STATE ASSISTANCE, 1950-1980

CONTINUED STATE ASSISTANCE, 1950-1980

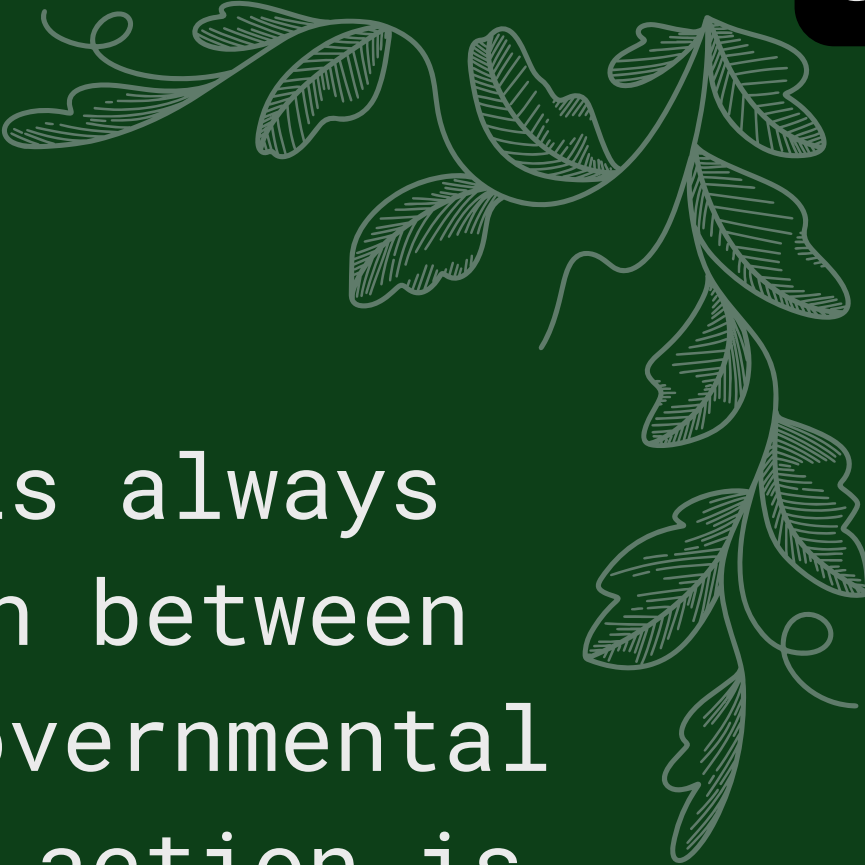
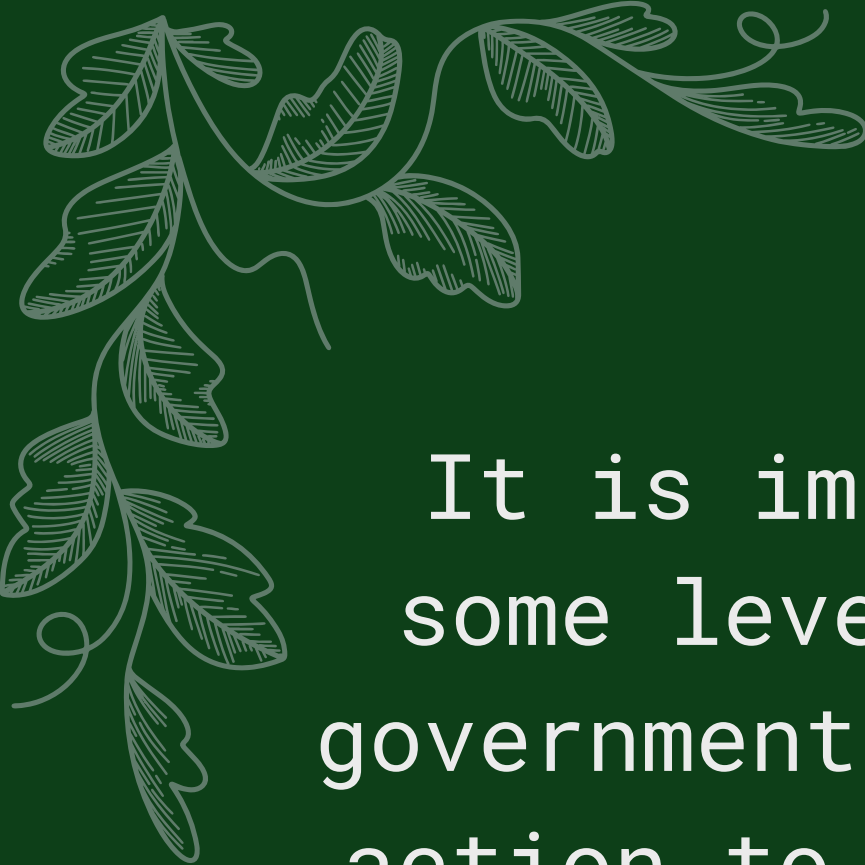


The Federal Task Force on Agriculture Report (1969)

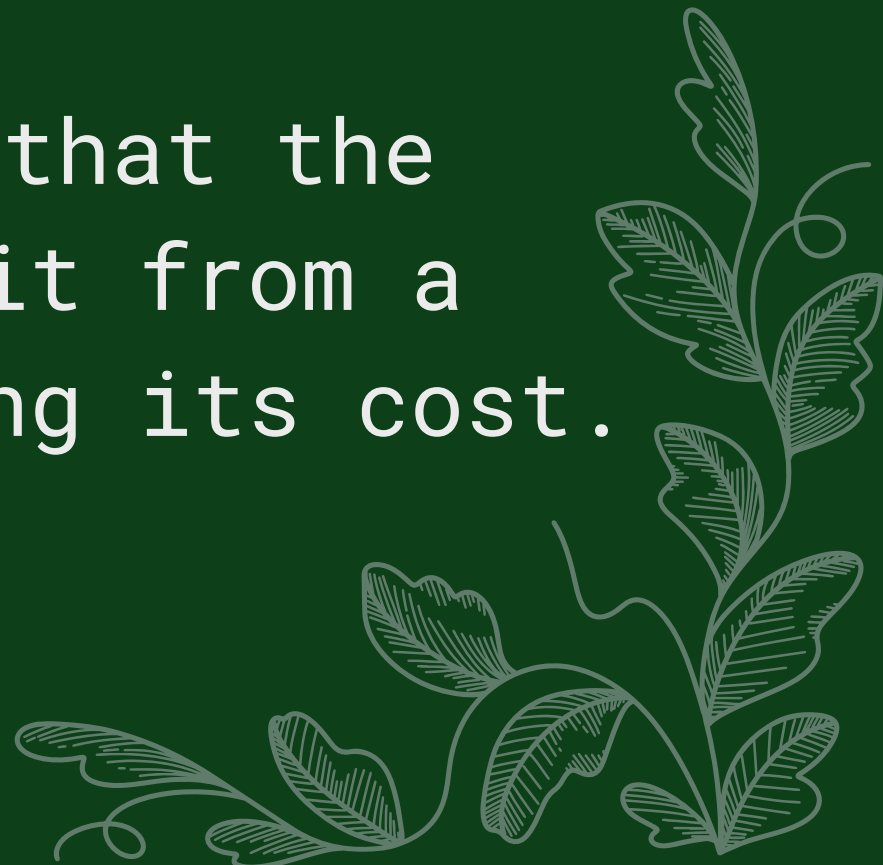

This was the first official initiative in Canada that challenged the state assistance paradigm.

It effectively reversed the logic that had been used to support strong government intervention in the agricultural industry by stating that "it was the governmental involvement that was leading to market failure rather than the failure leading to greater intervention.


There was a strong, aversive political renouncing of this report's findings which prevented any of its recommendations from being implemented immediately, however, more evidence supporting its findings continued to become apparent.



It is important to remember that there is always some level of consensus and collaboration between government workers that is required for governmental action to be able to occur, and that this action is not a product of individual choice.




Further, public policy operates such that the individuals who are intended to benefit from a policy are not those who will be suffering its cost.



These two important considerations mean that policy is greatly influenced by the lobbying efforts of multiple groups.

As Murray Fulton (2015) states, “Government policy is determined, not on economic efficiency terms, but rather as a consequence of the ability of the different groups to understand the problem, to organize, to raise funds, and to get their case before the decision makers”.



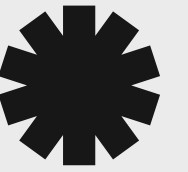
Agricultural research and development (R&D) has primarily been conducted by the government due to its characterisation as a public good and the difficulty of securing intellectual property rights (IPRs).

This second point is the main reason why private agricultural enterprises rarely conducted their own R&D prior to the 1980s, before the development of IPRs, and why they may have continued to underinvest in their own R&D initiatives.



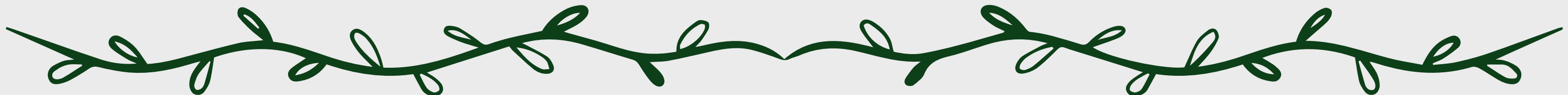
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, LATE 1980-2000

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, LATE 1980-2000





In the late 1980s, the federal government began advocating for a more collaborative environment in policy-making and in the marketplace.





NAFTA, 1994

The Canadian government's goal during the initial NAFTA negotiations in 1990-1992 were focused on ensuring the continuation of the 1989 Canada-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The FTA was initially opposed by most of the Canadian population due to fear of US cultural and economic dominance.

However, there was great importance placed on maintaining a good relationship with the United States due to its global hegemony and Canada's economic dependence on the US.

The main initiating factor that drove the creation of NAFTA was globalization (economic integration) and the rise in agricultural/food product multinational enterprises in the 1990s.

It is important to note that in both the FTA and NAFTA, Canadian and US markets remain distinct from one another and no economic union is attempted to be established. This restricts the level of economic integration that is possible on the basis of these agreements between our countries.

1995 WTO Agreement

Both NAFTA and the WTO agreement include agricultural exceptionalism rhetoric in their stipulations for continued high tariffs on agricultural products (compared with processed products).

In response to the WTO agreement and a national fiscal crisis, the federal government cut back on the farm income safety nets they had been providing for most of the 20th century.

International agreements always influence national policy.

As Skogstad (2008) argues, “Most reforms to [domestic] agricultural policy instruments have been in response to requirements of international trade agreements or the norms and guidelines of international organizations.”

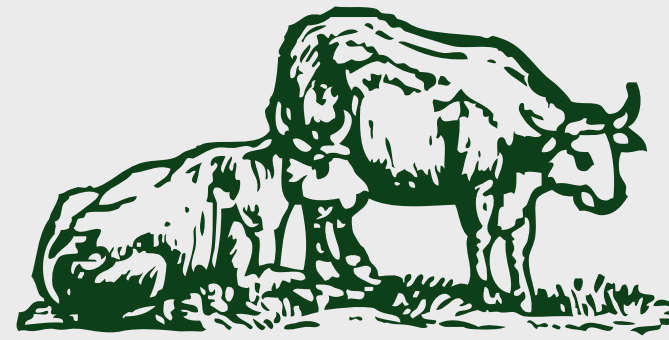
While national interest shapes international institutions, so do international norms guide the direction of domestic politics.



In the late 1990s, other elements of the food supply system were considered more thoroughly than before in public policy. This increased attention was due to the issue of farmer's market earnings decreasing and input costs rising, despite their rise in productivity.

Bearing in mind a previous point on the separation between the group who benefits from public policy and the group who bears its cost, it is widely recognised that consumers are often the group who bears this burden. This is particularly true with regard to supply management practices which involve adjusting the consumer price for food products.

The contrast between consumers and producers' ability to affect public policy is stated here by Fulton (2015), "Consumers are numerous, hard to organize, and typically lack information on the impact of the policy [...] In contrast, the beneficiaries of the program—namely farmers—are well organized and can launch well-developed lobbying efforts."



You've reached the end of Module 2!

Our discussion on Canadian agricultural policy continues
in Module 3.

Please make sure to complete the Module 2 Quiz before
moving forward in your learning.

Thank you!



1

HEDLEY, D. (2017). GOVERNANCE IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE. *CANADIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS* 65, 523-541. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1111/CJAG.12141](https://doi.org/10.1111/CJAG.12141)

2

SKOGSTAD, G. (2008). CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS AND PARADIGMS: THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND DOMESTIC FACTORS. *CANADIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS* 56, 493-507. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1111/J.1744-7976.2008.00143.X](https://doi.org/10.1111/J.1744-7976.2008.00143.X)

3

FULTON, M. (2015). AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: ECONOMICS AND POLITICS. *CANADIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS* 63, 7-18. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1111/CJAG.12065](https://doi.org/10.1111/CJAG.12065)

4

RUGMAN, A.M. (1994). A CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE ON NAFTA. *THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE* 36, 35-54. [HTTPS://DOI-ORG.PROXY.BIB.UOTTAWA.CA/10.1002/TIE.5060360104](https://doi.org.proxy.bib.uottawa.ca/10.1002/TIE.5060360104)

5

MOSBY, I. (2014). *FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR: THE POLITICS, CULTURE, AND SCIENCE OF FOOD ON CANADA'S HOME FRONT*. UBC PRESS. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.59962/9780774827638](https://doi.org/10.59962/9780774827638)

REFERENCES