

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

I would like to welcome everyone from around the world attending the Global Women in AgriTech Summit 4.0 to beautiful Montreal! Thank you for your dedication to sustainable and resilient food and agricultural technologies, women entrepreneurship and the health of our planet. Congratulations as well to all of the award nominees.

There are so many bright women leaders in the sector and they give us countless outstanding achievements to celebrate. You are bringing fresh ideas to help build a strong, sustainable and innovative agriculture and agri-food sector ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow, while inspiring the next generation to follow suit.



My wife, Frances, and I farmed for years in Prince Edward Island, and she was my partner in every way. Our operation was successful because of the work she put into it, but farming today is different and we have seen incredible advancements in automation, robotics and artificial intelligence, all of which offer exciting opportunities for growers and agri-businesses to enhance farming techniques, create new products and tackle challenges like climate change and labour shortages.

This year, you are shining a spotlight on organics. Today, organic farm practices play a vitally important role in combatting climate change and helping to feed the world sustainably. The Government of Canada continues to support the organics sector through our world-class research, international trade and strict labelling standards, and our investments in the sector have reinforced Canada's position as a global leader in organic agriculture.

Once again, thank you for everything you are doing for the future of food and the planet, and I wish you all a successful summit.

Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP

Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

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