



Report on the Second Cohort of the Canadian Agricultural Youth Council Timelines, Milestones, and Achievements July 2022 – March 2024



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Objective of the Canadian Agricultural Youth Council:

Ensure that the diverse perspective of youth in the sector is well-understood and directly informs policy, programs, planning and decision-making for the agriculture and agri-food sector.

The members of the second cohort of the Canadian Agricultural Youth Council (CAYC) began their terms in August 2022, and concluded their terms in March 2024. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the CAYC's priorities, activities, and contributions throughout the second cohort's mandate.

Cohort 2 activities – by the numbers

- **11 – Meetings during Cohort 2**
 - Eight virtual and three in-person
- **3 – Working groups in Cohort 2**
 - Agricultural Careers and Education; Climate Change and the Environment; Food Security
- **4 – Sector Engagement Tables that have CAYC members as members and/or observers**
 - Leadership Table, Animal Protein Table, Consumer Demand and Market Trends Table, Skills Development Table
- **8 – Domestic and International speaking or panel opportunities for CAYC members**
 - Ministerial Roundtables, World Food Forum, Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services, American Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference, Canada Mission to the EU, North American European Union Agricultural Conference, Future of Food Conference, Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference (East and West)
- **7 – Virtual and in-person conferences attended**
 - Canada's Outstanding Young Farmer's, Canada's Public Trust Summit, National Farmer's Union convention, Toronto Global Forum, Arrell Food Summit, Agriculture Enlightened Conference, Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council.

Working Group Key Priority Areas

Agricultural Careers and Education

Members: Sara Kate Smith, Sameeha Jhetam, Boma N-Chris, Chantele Gouliquer, Emily Bland, Erin McCardle, Vicki Brisson, Menilek Beyene, Elizabeth Jeffs, Lauren Peters Withrow, Hannah Kaya Sideris Hersh

Aims to:

Communicate the diversity of agricultural career and educational pathways to audiences not familiar with the Canadian agriculture and food sector while addressing barriers to entry, thereby attracting youth to the sector.

Food Security

Members: Thomas-Louis Lavallée, William McManiman, Alanna Coneybeare, B. Pratyusha Chennupati, Cyndelle Gagnon, David Simmonds

Aims to:

Provide input and develop materials to address and ensure food security for Canadians, ensuring everyone has access to healthy, affordable food products.

Climate Change and the Environment

Members: Josiah Mullet Koop, Kallum McDonald, Andrea De Roo, Jacob Aarts, Paul Hrycyk, B. Pratyusha Chennupati

Aims to:

Encourage the development of a responsible incentive-based Agricultural Climate Action Plan and position Canada as a leader in climate change mitigation and adaptation through research, good agricultural practices, and collaboration with stakeholders and international partners.

Major Working Group Contributions – Agricultural Careers and Education

Agricultural Labour Strategy

The CAYC provided input during consultations on AAFC’s National Agricultural Labour Strategy. Recommendations included government grants for ag-education programming, better communications around diverse career pathways along the agricultural value chain, dignified work within farming communities, and resources to assist succession planning/retention, knowledge transfer and mentorship between older and newer participants in the sector. **Several of the perspectives shared by the Youth Council were reflected in the [What We Heard Report regarding the National Agricultural Labour Strategy](#).**

Meeting with International Rural Exchange Canada (IREC)

The CAYC met with IREC, a program that seeks to match young people with employment opportunities within and outside Canada, to mutually share resources. The working group collaborated on social media posts to share stories of youth participating in IREC’s rural exchange program. The stories included their experiences in working on farms in other countries and how this led to **obtaining careers in agriculture**.

North American Agricultural Advisory Network (NAAAN) & Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)

Working Group members presented on the panel “Contribution of Young Extension Advisors: A Food Systems Approach” at GFRAS.

Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) Working Groups

Members of this working group continue to participate in working groups created by CAHRC.

Major Working Group Contributions – Food Security

National School Food Policy

The Youth Council was consulted on the National School Food Policy. The working group reached out to several food security groups across Canada to inform the consultation. In a written submission, the Youth Council expressed their thoughts and perspectives with concerning the policy. **A number of the perspectives shared by the Youth Council were reflected in the [What We Heard Report regarding the National School Food Policy](#).**

Emergency Preparedness

The Council discussed AAFC's work to develop a national emergency preparedness and response plan for crises affecting Canada's entire food system.

Major Working Group Contributions – Climate Change and the Environment

Sustainable Agriculture Strategy

The Youth Council was consulted on the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS) early in their term and ongoing consultations regarding the SAS quickly became a central focus of the Climate Change and the Environment Working Group who met five times with the SAS team. This working group provided a written consultation with an intention to reflect the points of view of all council members with regards to the implementation of this strategy. The Climate Change and the Environment Working Group led a workshop at an in-person meeting for the CAYC and other youth involved in agriculture to discuss and their perspectives with respect to the SAS. Representatives from the CAYC participated in a discussion with the SAS advisory committee that focused on how to better involve under-represented groups in the development of the strategy. The CAYC's contributions towards the **SAS consultations were a significant accomplishment for the Council.**

Other Consultations

- Arrell Food Institute
- Methane Reduction Challenge

Major Contributions at an International Level

Providing a Canadian Perspective on the Youth in Agriculture and Agri-Food Systems

The Youth Council has been engaged in numerous international dialogues, conferences, and meetings regarding the importance of supporting Youth in food and farming. The Youth Council has represented Canada at various international dialogues and policy consultations including:

- **World Food Forum** – Side event “Youth to the Table” co-hosted by members of the CAYC
- **Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services** – CAYC members as panelists on “Contribution of Young Extension Advisors: A Food Systems Approach”
- **Canada’s Mission to the EU** – CAYC members represented young farmers at Canada’s mission to the EU where similarities between the challenges young people and women face in agriculture internationally were highlighted.
- **North American European Union Agricultural Conference**
- **American Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference**

Relationship building and collaboration

The CAYC continued to build new relationships and enhance existing connections key domestic and international stakeholders, provincial governments, and other federal departments. These networks provide an avenue for CAYC members to grow their expertise, collaborate, and share knowledge and youth perspectives across the sector.

Government Departments/Agencies

- B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Farm Credit Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Natural Resources Canada

Industry associations/stakeholders

- Agriculture in the Classroom
- Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council
- Canadian Food Focus
- Canadian Outstanding Young Farmers
- Keith Mussar
- Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan
- Food Processing Skills Canada
- Murad Al-Katib
- Young Agrarians
- 4-H Canada

Youth engagement groups

- Prime Minister’s Youth Council
- Environment and Climate Change Canada Youth Council
- Natural Resources Canada Youth Council
- Canadian Young Farmers Forum
- Saskatchewan Young Ag-Entrepreneurs
- Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum
- New Brunswick Young Farmers Forum
- Alberta Young Farmers and Ranchers
- Fédération de la relève Agricole du Québec
- Manitoba Young Farmers
- Newfoundland and Labrador Young Farmers Forum
- Chicken Farmers of Canada – Young Farmers Program
- Young Cattleman’s Council & Cattleman’s Young Leaders Mentorship Program

International fora

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- FAO Committee on World Food Security
- American Farm Bureau Federation

What We Heard – Possible Next Steps

Proposed Next Steps for the Third Cohort

Agricultural Careers and Education Working Group

- Continuing involvement with CAHRC working groups

Food Security Working Group

- Meeting with the creator of FarmLink
- Meeting with American Farm Bureau Federation
- More conversations on the topic of food safety and food waste

Climate Change and the Environment Working Group

- Data sharing
- Emergency preparedness
- Gene editing
- Fertilizer use

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL
YOUTH COUNCIL

CONSEIL CANADIEN
DE LA JEUNESSE AGRICOLE

CAYC Cohort 2 Co-Chair Remarks

A Message from Co-Chair Alanna Coneybeare

My experience as the Co-Chair of the Canadian Agricultural Youth Council (CAYC) has been incredibly rewarding and eye-opening experience. I have had the great honor of meeting and working with an incredibly passionate group of young Canadians, whose intelligence and expertise in their fields is beyond impressive. This group is driven to improve the agricultural and agri-food sector for all Canadians and those working in the sector. My experience as Co-Chair has allowed me to represent this amazing group at a wide variety of events and panels and has given me and other young voices a legitimized platform that we, unfortunately, typically do not have. I believe this Youth Council is an excellent example of the positive contributions that young people are wanting to contribute to, and will be a part of, when we are given the platform to do so. Thank you to the Minister and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) for their hard work and dedication for creating this incredible opportunity for myself and the CAYC to participate in.

– Alanna Coneybeare (CAYC Co-Chair)