



## **FBC-ABC Members:**

### **Call for Supporters – FBC-ABC’s Plastics Policy and Advocacy Campaign**

FBC-ABC is launching an initiative to advocate for fair, practical, and science-based federal plastics policies that take into consideration the role of plastics in the food supply chain. This industry initiative will include the following objectives:

- Educate federal, as well as provincial governments on the role of plastics in the food supply chain, and the efforts being made around sustainability.
- Advocate for policies that are attainable and founded on scientific evidence, and that take into consideration the role of plastics in the food supply chain.
- Encourage policy frameworks that stimulate innovation and investment in sustainable packaging technologies.
- Ensure new policies account for the economic impact on the food and beverage manufacturing sector, aiming to mitigate undue financial burdens on both companies and consumers.

Further details on this campaign can be found [here](#). We invite you to share this with companies and associations whose participation you think would be valuable. Please reach out to FBC-ABC if you are interested in partaking in the activities associated with this campaign.

### **Op-ed: Securing the Future of Canada’s Food System – A Call to Action**

This week, an op-ed by FBC-ABC CEO, Kristina Farrell entitled “Securing the Future of Canada’s Food System – A Call to Action” appeared in [National Newswatch](#). In her op-ed, Kristina discusses what support Canada’s food and

beverage manufacturers need in Federal Budget 2024, which is anticipated early this spring.

### **Summary of recent Monthly Political Round-up Call-in; Next to take place Tuesday, April 2**

FBC-ABC's monthly political round-up call in took place on Tuesday, February 27. Topics covered included: A parliamentary look ahead, potential budget dates, party priorities, election-lead up intel, recent federal announcements, updates on Bill C-352 and C-58, overview of work before parliamentary committees, plastics policies, and ministerial staff changes. The next session is scheduled for 12:30pm EDT on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. We invite you to share the [registration link](#) with your colleagues.

### **FBC-ABC welcomes recommendations of the House of Commons Committee on Finance in advance of Federal Budget 2024**

FBC-ABC welcomes the recommendations of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance to the Minister of Finance, in advance of Federal Budget 2024, tabled this week in Parliament. In their report entitled "Shaping our Economic Future: Canadian Priorities", the members of the Committee highlighted several of the recommendations included in FBC-ABC's August submission, such as those related to providing incentives for food and beverage manufacturing companies to invest in innovation, and the need to work towards a coordinated approach to affordable housing, public transportation, and other infrastructure needed to support a local workforce. You can find our news release [here](#), and our post on social media [here](#).

### **Staff changes in the Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay**

This week, Emerson Vandenberg returned from parental leave, resuming his role as Director of Policy to the Minister. Alison Porter is now headed off on maternity leave and will return in the new role of Director of Regional Affairs.

### **The Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development appears before Committee**

On February 23, the Hon. Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, as part of the Committee's study on Efforts to Stabilize Food Prices. FBC-ABC will be reviewing his appearance once the transcript is available. The report of the Committee on this study is now being drafted.

### **Government of Canada announces funding for the National Index on Agri-Food Performance**

On February 27, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food [announced](#) over \$3.1M to the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI) under the Agri-Assurance Program – National Industry

Association Component. This funding will be used to make improvements to the National Index on Agri-Food Performance, which acts as a point of reference for companies to declare the sustainability of their practices. FBC-ABC participates in this initiative and will continue to update its Members.

### **Government of Canada announces adjustments to travel requirements for Mexican citizens**

This week, the Government [announced](#) that as of February 29, 2024, Mexican citizens who hold a valid US non-immigrant visa or have held a Canadian visa in the past 10 years and are travelling by air on a Mexican passport will be able to apply for an electronic travel authorization. Those who do not meet these conditions will need to apply for a Canadian visitor visa. The application process for Mexican citizens seeking a work of study permit will not change.

### **Bill C-58 passes second reading in the House of Commons, heads to Committee**

On February 27, [Bill C-58](#), An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code and the Canada Industrial Relations Board Regulations, 2012 was voted for unanimously by the House, and referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development. This Bill would, among other things, make it illegal for employers in federally regulated industries to bring in replacement workers to continue operations previously executed by unionized employees during a legal strike or lockout. FBC-ABC will be monitoring this bill as it moves through Committee and will update Members on any changes to the text of the bill.

### **Government of Canada opens call for proposals for projects to protect and empower Canadian consumers**

This week, the Honourable Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry announced an open call for projects under the Contributions Program for Non-profit Consumer and Voluntary Organizations. ISED is seeking to fund projects that will develop and implement innovative communications methods focused on groceries to help consumers better understand options and make the best choices for their family and budget. The latest round of funds supported projects on topics such as “shrinkflation” and “skimpflation”.