

Expanded Scope for Organic Regulations

The Ask:

- Create government standards for organic **self-care** products, **textiles** and **pet food**. At the very least, we will need to amend the newly-enacted Safe Food for Canadian Regulations (SFCRs), or else enact new regulations.
- The potential of the organic market is as of yet unreached! The lack of standards places Canada at a disadvantage compared to our largest trading partners. We need **funding to carry out important market research** to determine the true size of the missed market opportunities.
- The long-term goal is to enact an **Organic Act**, overseen by the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food, which encompasses all agriculturally-derived products.

The Issue:

The Organic Products Regulations (OPRs) regulate organic products in Canada. The OPR applies to 'food and drink for human consumption and food intended to feed livestock'. In other words, food, feed and seed. All other products are beyond the scope of current regulations.

The OPRs are going to be replaced with the SFCRs, anticipated in Spring 2018. Despite the new regulation, the Government of Canada intends to keep the scope of organic certification limited to only food, feed and seed.

Elsewhere in the world, a broader range of products can be certified. For example, the US has an organic standard for agriculturally-derived body care and cosmetic products, cotton and wool. Some of these products can be found on our shelves here in Canada, demonstrating that a lack of organic standards for these product categories is a missed market opportunity.

There is a consumer demand for a broader range of organic products. Standards for organic self-care products, textiles and pet food should be developed. As it stands, Canadian companies wishing to sell organic products where there are no standards must either import products that have already been certified, or choose to certify using another country's logo.