

LISA SKIERKA ELECTED AS CAFTA INTERIM PRESIDENT

May 14, 2013 – At its recent Board of Director's meeting, Canada's premier agri-food trade policy group elected Lisa Skierka, Alberta Barley Commission, as its new Interim President.

Lisa was named General Manager of the Alberta Barley Commission in 2011 and was elected to the CAFTA Board of Directors shortly thereafter. Lisa has had an extensive career in communications, public relations and government affairs in the agriculture not-for-profit and the publishing sectors working for Heritage Group of Publishing Companies, Alberta Egg Producers, Skielark Communications and Alberta Barley Commission.

Lisa takes the leadership mantle from outgoing CAFTA President Richard Phillips. Richard was elected as CAFTA President in October 2011 for a two year term but has stepped down early as he prepares to become President of the Canada Grains Council.

"This is a truly exciting time for CAFTA and its members," said Lisa. "Canada is on the verge of completing the Canada-EU CETA and has embarked on trade negotiations with key markets including Japan and the Trans Pacific Partnership."

Lisa Skierka will serve as interim leader until CAFTA's next AGM in October 2013 at which time she will seek a full 2 year term as CAFTA President.

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CAFTA is a coalition of national and regional organizations which support a more open and fair international trading environment for agriculture and agri-food. CAFTA's members include producer organizations, processors, marketers and exporters from the major trade dependent sectors in Canada. Together, these sectors produce almost 80% of Canada's agriculture and agri-food exports, conduct about \$40 billion in business annually and directly employ close to 500,000 Canadians.

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