

CAFTA SUPPORTS CONCLUDING HISTORIC TRADE DEAL WITH THE EU

Ottawa (Canada), October 16, 2013 – The Canadian Agri-food Trade Alliance urges the federal and provincial governments to close an historic trade deal with the European Union.

Recent reports suggest that an agreement on the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is within reach. The CETA, launched in May 2009, is Canada's most significant free trade initiative since the NAFTA and is the broadest trade negotiation Canada has ever undertaken. It is historic.

"The CETA offers tremendous potential for Canadian producers and food processors to grow exports to the EU," said CAFTA Chair Lisa Skierka. "Current agri-food exports to the EU are \$2.4 billion a year. When completely implemented, we expect the CETA to eliminate tariffs on virtually all of Canada's agriculture and food products."

Since the start of negotiations, CAFTA has encouraged the federal and provincial governments to negotiate a trade deal that benefits Canada's agriculture and food processing sectors. After over four years, CAFTA encourages the government to bring the deal to a close.

"We believe the CETA could increase total agri-food exports to the EU by \$1.3 billion a year," said CAFTA Executive Director Kathleen Sullivan. "Even in the case of beef and pork, where the EU is particularly sensitive, the CETA could be worth \$1 billion a year."

Across Canada, 9 out of every 10 farms are dependent on exports. This represents 210,000 farms and includes a majority of farms in every province. Canada's food processing sector employs a further 290,000 Canadians. Together these industries support over \$44 billion in annual exports and account for 11% of Canada's GDP.

-30-

About CAFTA

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.

For more information, contact: Kathleen Sullivan, 613-560-0500 or sullivank@cafta.org.