

Canadian agri-food exporters welcome steps on CPTPP, urge Ottawa to implement quickly

Ottawa – February 21, 2018 – The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) expressed its support for the federal government’s efforts to move forward on the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Today, the government of Canada released the legal text of the agreement and an economic analysis conducted by the Office of the Chief Economist. These steps, in addition to officially signing the agreement, move Canada closer to ratifying and implementing the deal.

“We need to make sure that we’re leading the way in putting the CPTPP in place,” says CAFTA President Brian Innes. “Being in the first wave of countries to implement CPTPP will bring significant competitive advantages.”

The analysis found that the agreement would provide a \$4.2 billion boost to the Canadian GDP over the long term.

“This agreement is a great deal for Canada and for our farmers, ranchers, food manufacturers and exporters,” said Innes. “We are especially pleased that the market access provisions in the original agreement remain intact.”

The analysis pointed out that the CPTPP establishes new free trade agreements with Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam – in addition to Mexico, Chile and Peru, with which Canada already has agreements.

“Securing preferential access to Japan is especially important, since it is the third-largest market for Canadian agriculture and agri-food products, accounting for \$4 billion in exports in 2016,” said Innes. “Getting this agreement in place will go a long way towards meeting the government’s ambitious goal of \$75 billion in agri-food exports by 2025.”

Participating in the CPTPP will give Canada a competitive advantage over the U.S. in these markets. It also levels the playing field for Canadian agri-food exports with other CPTPP countries – like Australia - that already have free trade agreements with Japan.

CAFTA members will be travelling with International Trade Minister François-Philippe Champagne to Chile for the official signing of the agreement, scheduled for March 8, 2018.

CAFTA is the voice of Canadian agriculture and agri-food exporters. Representing the 90% of farmers who depend on trade and ranchers, producers, processors and agri-food exporters who want to grow the economy through better access to international markets. This includes the beef, pork, meat, grains, cereals, pulses, soybeans, canola as well as the sugar, malt, and processed food industries. The sectors CAFTA represents support over a million jobs in urban and rural communities across Canada.

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