



**CAFTA ACCA**

Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance | Alliance canadienne du commerce agroalimentaire

**For Immediate Release**

## **Pass CPTPP Before Summer Recess, CAFTA Urges**

*Valuable first-mover advantage is at stake for Canadian agri-food in new Asian Markets*

**Ottawa, Ontario – June 13, 2018** - The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) welcomes the recent announcement by Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that legislation to implement the Comprehensive Progressive agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) will be tabled before the summer recess, and is calling on all Parliamentarians to remain in Ottawa to pass the bill before the summer break.

“We’ve got unprecedented instability in North America and a chance to have a first mover advantage in Asia - now is the perfect time to lock down our access to growing Asia-Pacific markets,” says CAFTA President Brian Innes. “We urge Parliamentarians in both Houses to pass CPTPP legislation before the summer break.”

Mexico has already ratified the deal, Japan is expected to do so within days and others including Australia, Chile, New Zealand and Vietnam are likely to soon follow suit. Major trade barriers will be eliminated across the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region once the first six countries ratify. Canada is the second largest economy at the table after Japan and has the opportunity to play a leadership role.

“The first-mover advantage is real in trade deals and Canada cannot afford to be left behind our competitors,” says Innes. “Thousands of jobs and billions in agri-food exports are at stake. It’s imperative that our Parliamentarians come together and act swiftly to get this done.”

According to research commissioned by CAFTA, this trade pact could increase Canadian agri-food exports by nearly \$2 billion annually for a variety of agriculture products including beef, pork, canola, wheat, barley and oats, pulses, soybeans, sugar and processed foods.

“With continued uncertainty due to Trump protectionism, better access to high-value, growing markets is more important than ever,” says Innes.

CAFTA members, including farmer and food processors contribute \$96 billion to Canada’s economy annually and support one million jobs in urban and rural areas in every region of the country.

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*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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