



CAFTA ACCA

Canadian Agri-Food
Trade Alliance

Alliance canadienne
du commerce
agroalimentaire

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAFTA Statement: Canada's WTO Reform Efforts Support Predictable Trade

May 24, 2019

Brian Innes, President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today issued the following statement regarding Canada's role in modernizing the World Trade Organization during meetings on the margins of OECD discussions this week in Paris.

"On behalf of our members, we are pleased to see Minister Carr leading important discussions to maintain and modernize our multilateral trading system. It's critical to Canada's agri-food sector that we maintain rules-based trade.

"Now more than ever, Canadian agri-food exporters need rules-based trade. We need predictability and certainty back in the global trading system.

"We strongly believe the WTO remains the best forum for creating a trading system that's fair to all. The WTO has been effective for addressing trade disputes such as Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and is the only forum to effectively address agricultural domestic subsidies.

In particular, CAFTA supports Canada's leadership in advancing specific reforms including:

- o Reforming the dispute resolution processes to ensure ongoing functionality;
- o Restructuring the overall governance of the WTO; and
- o Revitalizing the multi-lateral negotiation process.

"As a sector that has a strong interest in the WTO being effective, we share concerns that governance disputes and blocking the appointment of Appellate Judges puts the entire WTO dispute resolution process at risk. It will reach a crisis point if not resolved in the next few months.

"We are pleased that Canada and the other Ottawa Group countries are leading the effort to keep the world's trading system fair, predictable and rules-based."

- 30 -

CAFTA is the voice of Canadian agriculture and agri-food exporters, representing the 90% of farmers who depend on trade and the 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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