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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canada's Agri-Food Exporters announce support for CUSMA Implementation

May 29, 2019 - Brian Innes, President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today issued the following statement regarding the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

“On behalf of our members – the hundreds of thousands of farmers, ranchers, food processors and agriculture exporters who rely on trade for their livelihood – we are pleased the Canadian government is taking steps to bring the CUSMA into force.

“Maintaining predictable duty-free access to the North American market is crucial for Canada’s export-based agri-food industry. It’s a remarkable achievement in today’s environment that the agreement contains no new tariff or trade-restricting measures. All agricultural products without tariffs under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will remain without tariffs under the new CUSMA.

“The United States and Mexico are the first and fourth largest exports markets for Canadian agri-food products, making up more than half of our exports. Modernizing NAFTA maintains the continental supply chains that make North America globally competitive, and provide our citizens with abundant, safe and affordable food.

“We are also happy the agreement makes meaningful progress on regulatory alignment. Establishing the Working Group for Cooperation on Agricultural Biotechnology and a new Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee will help make regulations more transparent and based on science. “Another key benefit for our members is the preservation of dispute settlement provisions that resolves issues fairly when disagreements arise. Preserving Chapter 19 in its entirety and much of Chapter 20 from the previous NAFTA are major wins for Canada.

“Other market access improvements for Canadian agri-food exporters include increased quotas for refined sugar and sugar containing products as well as gains for processed oilseed products like margarine – all welcome news for our members.

“Taken together, CUSMA is a meaningful upgrade from NAFTA that keeps trade tariff free, establishes processes to help remove remaining technical barriers and maintains vital provisions to deal with disputes.

“Thanks to the outcomes reached in CUSMA, the future of North American trade is bright. We look forward to working with the Canadian government to bring CUSMA into force so that our members can tap into its benefits as quickly as possible.”



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CAFTA is the voice of Canadian 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 90 per cent of Canada's agri-food exports and support over a million jobs in urban and rural communities across Canada.

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