



Trade Insights

CAFTA AGM, Visit from the Honourable Minister Mary Ng



On September 28, the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, attended CAFTA’s annual general meeting in Ottawa with the full slate of CAFTA directors. The meeting provided a constructive opportunity to discuss the challenges Canadian agri-food exporters are facing and how best to advance these interests in the current global context.



Among the issues discussed, industry and government covered the WTO modernization, bilateral trade negotiations with the UK, Indonesia, India and ASEAN, as well as fixing lingering issues in CETA. Recent supply chain disruptions and challenges to science- and rules-based trade were also discussed. CAFTA remains closely engaged with

Minister Ng and her office to maximize trade and deliver growth for agri-food businesses of all sizes across Canada.

Recapping recent years and what to expect on the road ahead

As we enter the 4th quarter of 2022, a look back on the past several years shows just how tumultuous a period it has been for global trade. Prior to the pandemic, protectionism was on the rise across the world. Here in Canada, further instability ensued as rail blockades and related shutdowns showed just how vital transportation and logistics networks are for delivering the goods in the 21st century. Next, the exacerbation of tensions in our key trading relationships further eroded the trust that is vital in any commercial relationship.

The focus on sustainability continues to drive major policy shifts around the world as a result of the increasing importance people all around the world place on their food – not only its safety but increasingly, how it is produced –resulting in a greater number and complexity of regulatory requirements. It will be important for policy makers to recognize that trade and sustainability are neither mutually exclusive nor a trade-off and ensure that global trade remains grounded in science and rules based traded.

So, where do we go from here? With inflation at a 40-year high and becoming an increasingly dominant concern for global policymakers, now is the time for us to get it right and show that removing trade barriers is the best way to tackle affordability, food security, and of course, issues related to sustainability, inclusiveness, and prosperity.

As we have told policymakers before Canada has an enormous opportunity to power its economy forward by unleashing the full potential of agri-food trade. Over the next 20 to 30 years, the global demand for agri-food products will continue to grow rapidly. Driven by population growth and rising incomes around the world, it is projected that agricultural demand in 2050 will be 50 per cent higher than it was in 2013. By then, it is also projected that 50% of humanity will depend in large part on international trade to be fed. As the world's fifth largest agri-food exporter, this presents an immense global growth opportunity for Canada.

To seize this opportunity we must get trade policy right. That will remain CAFTA's core objective in the days ahead.



CAFTA Welcomes CropLife as Friend of CAFTA

CAFTA is excited to welcome CropLife Canada as a friend of CAFTA. This new partnership allows organizations to join CAFTA's vast trade network, receive customized trade intelligence and share information on trade policy. For more information, please contact info@cafta.org.

On the Hill

CPC Leadership and New Diplomatic Appointments

On September 12, Pierre Poilievre was elected as the new leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. Poilievre named his [leadership team](#), Melissa Lantsman and Tim Uppal were named Deputy Leaders. The new [shadow cabinet](#) and senior staffing roles were announced. Ian Todd was appointed Chief of Staff and David Murray Director of Policy. In diplomacy, [Nadia Theodore](#) was appointed Canada's new Ambassador to the WTO and [Jennifer May](#) the new Ambassador for China. As of September 20, Parliament is back in session and CAFTA will continue to engage with parliamentarians in the weeks ahead.

FTA Updates

CETA Anniversary and Ratifications

September 21, 2022, marked the five-year anniversary of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU. Dan Darling, president of CAFTA, remarked that "after 5 years of provisional implementation, significant non-tariff barriers remain in place." You can find CAFTA's full statement [here](#). As of September 2022, 17 EU member states have ratified CETA with another 10 still pending. On July 12, the German parliament [received](#) a proposal to ratify CETA and two days later, the Dutch Senate [ratified](#) the agreement. CAFTA will continue to press to fully bring this agreement into force and to remove barriers to enable commercially viable trade for #Cdnag.

Building on the CPTPP platform

In August, President Rodrigo Chaves Robles [formalized](#) his intention to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) stating it was "one of the most important blocs in the world, as it groups 17% of world trade." [Media reports](#) indicate Costa Rica is also interested in joining

the Pacific Alliance agreement a pact comprised of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. In the meantime, British Parliamentary Committee members are reviewing the benefits and drawbacks of CPTPP membership for the UK as well as consequences of a potential Chinese accession.

Canada–Indonesia, Canada-ASEAN

Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, [participated](#) in the G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in July where she met her counterpart, Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Indonesia and agreed to [expedite](#) the Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations. In August, Minister Ng participated in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ministerial meetings where she [reiterated](#) Canada’s support for a rules-based international order. In support of a Canada-ASEAN FTA, a C.D. Howe [report](#) has found that more open trade between Canada and ASEAN “would help lower inflation and raise standards of living.” CAFTA is pleased to see these talks continue and will keep engaging officials on these files.

Other Trade Updates

France: FARM Initiative

France has launched the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) aimed at protecting global food security from adverse effects related to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The focus is on three pillars: trade, solidarity with Ukrainian agriculture and strengthening agricultural production in countries most affected by the war. CAFTA and some of its members recently discussed the initiative with French government officials at the Embassy of France in Ottawa.



G7 and G20 Meetings

In mid-September, Minister Ng [participated](#) in the G7 Trade and Investment Ministers’ Meeting in Germany. Minister Bibeau and Minister Ng [attended](#) the G20 Ministerial meetings in Indonesia for Agriculture and Trade respectively. Both ministers held bilateral meetings with Indonesia, the Philippines and ASEAN. Minister Ng and Piyush Goyal, India’s Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, [agreed](#) to maintain the momentum in the Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

WTO and related updates

Trade-Restrictive Measures

The Director-General’s mid-year report shows restraint in imposing trade restrictions. While 30 Members and Observers had initially [introduced](#) 55 measures prohibiting or restricting exports of food, feed, and fertilizers at the start of the conflict in Ukraine, 15 of these measures have since been phased out. The DG has emphasized that while food trade restrictions may be a tempting response to economic distress, these will only deepen inflationary pressures and reduce living standards. You can find the WTO’s full report [here](#)

WTO Agriculture Committee Meeting

Food security was the focus of the meeting of the WTO's Committee on Agriculture in mid-September as members [called](#) for a work program dedicated to helping net food-importing developing countries (NFIDCs) deal with food insecurity. The Committee also discussed how to implement the [MC12 declaration](#) on the response to the pandemic within the context of agriculture. The next Committee on Agriculture meeting is scheduled to take place in late November. After the MC12 momentum, there are renewed efforts at the WTO to revitalize agriculture negotiations and address food security for MC13. Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala [called](#) on WTO members to build on the substantive outcomes reached at MC12 and to start implementing the outcomes as soon as possible.

CAFTA's Participation in Other Events

Future Skills: Development for Sustainable Futures –

On September 21, CAFTA's Executive Director Claire Citeau [participated](#) in a panel hosted by the Conference Board of Canada and the Future Skills Centre. The panel discussed the skills necessary to build a net-zero economy.



CN Tellier Forum

The University of Ottawa's [CN-Tellier Forum](#) on Business and Public Policy brings together businesses and government to discuss shared challenges. This year CAFTA was [invited](#) to speak about the importance of strong industry-collaboration in an uncertain and challenging global agri-food trade context.



Canada-ASEAN Business Council: Protein Showcase

On September 1, CAFTA delivered keynote remarks at the Canada-ASEAN Business featuring Canada's plant-based protein industry and the opportunity to leverage the country's unrivalled natural resources to meet global food demand.

Harvest 2022: Field Crop Estimates

According to [Statistics Canada](#), Canadian farmers are projected to produce more wheat, canola, barley, oats, soybeans and corn this year than in 2021. The increase in production was largely driven by higher yields due to better growing conditions in Western Canada. Forecasting of production is a vital part of Canadian agriculture and indeed shows why Canadian agri-food exporters need competitive access to global markets. You can read more about crop estimates, modelling and forecasting [here](#).

In case you missed it:

- [WTO issues new edition of World Tariff Profiles](#)
- [The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2022-31](#)
- [Webinar: Traceable supply chains ensure sustainable global trade](#)

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