

CAFTA Welcomes New Federal Investments to Expand Canada’s Export Potential

November 21, 2018

The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) welcomes today’s commitment by the federal government to make Canada the world’s ‘Most Globally Connected Economy.’ Increased support will help exporters take advantage of new trade agreements and access new markets.

Speaking for members who make up most of Canada’s \$58 billion agri-food export industry, CAFTA president Brian Innes said: “We commend the Government of Canada on its efforts to secure a new NAFTA and to bring into force CETA and the CPTPP. The new Export Diversification Strategy will provide much-needed additional support for Canada’s agri-food exporters to identify and take advantage of the new market opportunities provided by these new trade agreements.”

The new Strategy, as announced today by Finance Minister Bill Morneau in the Fall Economic Statement, contains \$1.1 billion over six years for improving infrastructure and export market support, including expanding the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service.

CAFTA especially welcomes the commitment of \$25 million over the next five years devoted to enhancing federal capacity to address non-tariff and other trade barriers specific to agri-food. These barriers often prevent exporters from taking advantage of new export opportunities.

“It’s quite an accomplishment to say that Canada now has FTAs with countries representing two-thirds of the world’s gross domestic product”, added Mr. Innes. He expressed cautioned however, “it’s important that we don’t stop here, we need to secure trade agreements with countries accounting for the other third, such as China.” He noted the recent visits to China by Finance Minister Morneau, International Trade diversification Minister Carr and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister MacAulay as important to securing improved access to that market, now the second most important for Canada’s agri-food exports.

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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 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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