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NCFA Election Position Statement

International Trade

The Canadian government must assertively pursue and support export opportunities for the livestock sector. Current priorities include ensuring Canada's inclusion within the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and implementing the Canada-EU Comprehensive Trade Agreement (CETA).

Background

- Expanding and enhancing international export markets is critical to the future growth and long-term sustainability of Canada's agriculture and agri-food industry — an industry that contributes 8% to the nation's total GDP.
- Canada's agriculture and agri-food industry is one of the most trade dependent agricultural sectors in the world. Canada is the world's fifth largest agriculture and agri-food exporter. Canada ships abroad half of its agriculture and agri-food output annually.
- Canada relies heavily on the United States as its main export market. With global exports so important to the Canadian agriculture and agri-food industry, an over-dependence on any one single economy is a potential long-term risk. To limit trade exposure to the U.S. economy and ensure the long-term sustainability of agriculture and agri-food, Canada would benefit from expanding beyond our existing trade relationships.

NCFA Position

a) *Trans-Pacific Partnership:*

- The TPP represents 12 nations, 792 million people, and \$28 trillion in GDP — 40% of the global economy. Enhancing trade with the rapidly growing and developing nations in the TPP reduces Canada's dependence on the U.S. and taps into future sources of global economic growth.
- If Canada fails to join in a multi-lateral TPP agreement, it will have a devastating impact on agriculture and agri-food exports as other countries obtain preferential access and Canada's market share in countries like Japan is eroded. All Canadian farmers deserve the opportunity to compete on an equal footing in the rapidly growing Pacific Rim region.

b) *CETA:*

- While the successful negotiation of CETA was a major milestone both for government and the agriculture sector, the beef industry is concerned that the increased access to the EU market, and the corresponding benefits, are not going to be realized. The administration of the quota system via an import license and the protracted process for EU recognition and acceptance of essential elements of the Canadian federal meat inspection system are concerning.
- The Canadian government must be more assertive in ensuring Canadian technical requirements and regulatory supports are recognized as providing an equivalent level of safety and security to those in the EU.

Candidate Questions

What actions will you and your party take to secure the best deal possible for Canada at the TPP table?

What will you and your party do to overcome the impediments to EU market access and harness the opportunities?