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For Immediate Release

NCFA MARKS SIGNING OF TPP AGREEMENT AND URGES GOVERNMENT TO RATIFY QUICKLY

February 4, 2016

Calgary, AB — The National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) is pleased Minister Freeland in New Zealand, on behalf of the Government of Canada, has signed the historic Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, which will create the world's largest free trade zone. NCFA believes the partnership will make an important contribution to creating a more prosperous beef and cattle industry in Canada. The signing of the TPP is a necessary step on the road to ratifying the agreement. Without signing the TPP at this stage, Canada would jeopardize its status as an "original signatory" and risk facing additional hurdles to becoming a party to the agreement.

The government has made clear it intends to conduct extensive consultations in Canada on the TPP and to provide an opportunity for a full and open debate in Parliament before considering its ultimate ratification. NCFA congratulates Minister Freeland on the intensity of the consultative process with stakeholders and the public.

NCFA urges the government to proceed to ratification quickly and to work with the other TPP signatories to bring the agreement into force as soon as possible for the following reasons:

- The rapidly developing markets of the Asia Pacific region offer enormous opportunities for Canadian beef producers, with a significant portion of the increased income of consumers in these markets spent on quality food products including beef.
- The most significant immediate benefit NCFA members would receive from TPP is greatly improved access to Japan, a market absorbing Canadian agri-food products worth over \$4 billion annually — considerably more than Canadian suppliers ship to the entire EU market.
- The agreement would give Canadian producers the same access to all TPP markets that our TPP competitors would enjoy.

Canadian beef exports to Japan were worth over \$100 million in 2014. The TPP opens new opportunities but also keeps Canadian beef on an even playing field with Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, and U.S. beef exports to Japan. Our industry can't afford to be left behind as the Japanese 38.5% tariff on beef begins to come down for our competitors. Already Australia has an FTA with Japan that provides Australia with better access than Canada to this key market. This is not just about future gains into the region; it is about keeping the playing field even with our major competitors.

We believe this agreement is essential for our industry and is good for Canadians. With the signature in New Zealand we now have the final legal text of the TPP agreement. We call on the government to take the necessary steps to bring it into force expeditiously.

About National Cattle Feeders Organization:

The NCFA was established in 2007 as the voice of Canadian cattle feeders, with a mission to promote: growth and sustainability, competitiveness, and industry leadership. Visit www.nationalcattlefeeders.ca for more information.

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