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For Immediate Release

NCFA wants to see Canada secure first-mover advantage by passing CPTPP before summer recess

Calgary, AB – June 14, 2018 — The National Cattle Feeders' Association is thankful that an Act to implement the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) between Canada, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam was on notice in the House of Commons yesterday.

“The CPTPP will reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers, open new, growing markets for Canadian agri-food products [including beef producers], and support jobs and prosperity here at home,” said Claire Citeau, executive director of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA).

Some of Canada's main competitors, such as Australia, already have free trade agreements with countries in this region, giving them a huge advantage over Canada when it comes to exports. The CPTPP will help level the playing field. By being one of the first six to ratify and implement CPTPP, Canada will benefit from the initial rounds of tariff cuts.

The 11 countries in the CPTPP region include some of our main export markets: Japan and Mexico, as well as seven new countries. Japan is our third largest export market and a high-value market for Canadian agriculture and agri-food — it is also the largest economy in the CPTPP region and the third largest in the world. Canadian beef exports to Japan were worth over \$100 million in 2014. The CPTPP will help Canada to remain competitive with Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, and U.S. beef exports to Japan.

“If Canada had turned its back on CPTPP, we could have faced not having a trade agreement with the Japanese for at least a decade,” said John Weekes, senior business advisor at Bennett Jones, former ambassador to the WTO, and Canada's chief negotiator for NAFTA. The partnership will not only provide Canada's beef industry with unprecedented access to the important Japanese market but also rapidly growing Asian markets like Vietnam and Malaysia.

Bottom line, this is not just about future gains into the region, it is about keeping what we already have.

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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.cattlefeeders.ca for more information.

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