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Canada – Asia-Pacific Trade Consultations
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To: GlobalAffairsCanada

On behalf of the National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA), I am pleased to provide input into the *Public Consultations on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)*.

NCFA serves as the national voice for cattle feeders across Canada. Together with government, NCFA is committed to growth and global competitiveness for Canada's cattle production. Over the last 10 years, Canadian live cattle and beef exports have seen impressive growth, moving from \$1.4 billion to \$4.5 billion.

Approximately 50% of beef and cattle produced in Canada is exported. Of those exports, about 70% is sent to the United States and 5% to Mexico. While Canada benefits from a highly integrated North American industry, it is crucial to diversify to reduce reliance on this single market.

Canada's beef sector is pro-trade and wants to expand access to global markets. In turn, NCFA values CPTPP and the increased opportunities it provides to multiple export markets. Through CPTPP, Canadian beef has realized better access to the member countries as well as a competitive advantage for Canada over the US.

With great fanfare, Canada has signed a range of trade agreements in recent years. However, CPTPP has delivered more meaningful results compared to many other trade agreements, in particular CETA. By example, the CPTPP has provided enhanced market access and strengthened the rules-based trading environment with Japan – a market that currently accounts for about 13% of Canadian beef exports.

However, as a member of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA), we agree that a quantitative, transparent assessment of the uptake of CPTPP would be helpful to the government and industry to understand how to continue improve the uptake of the Agreement.

The foundation of CPTPP has been science-based decision-making on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. This is fundamental to the current and future success of the agreement. As other countries seek to join CPTPP, we must ensure their accession to the agreement does not erode its integrity of rules-based trade.

Therefore, NCFA has serious concerns that the accession of the UK to CPTPP will set a negative precedent given the non-tariff barriers the UK is maintaining on Canadian beef. Between January and April 2024, Canada imported \$10.2 million worth of beef from the U.K. – a significant increase from the same period in 2023, when beef imports from Britain were \$3.7 million. In turn, Canada has shipped \$0 beef to the UK this year due to the UK’s unwillingness to fully accept Canada’s food safety system. We must achieve reciprocal market access for Canada’s beef before moving forward with UK’s accession to CPTPP. Allowing the UK into CPTPP before resolution is clearing a pathway for other countries to join with similar non-compliant trade behaviour.

We encourage the Canadian government to uphold the fundamental rules-based principles of CPTPP to ensure its ongoing success and to model future trade agreements around these same high standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this consultation. At your request, I would be pleased to answer questions or provide additional insight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tranberg', written in a cursive style.

Janice Tranberg
President and CEO