

October 8, 2026

The Honourable Anita Anand  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc  
Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy

The Honourable Heath MacDonald  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Dear Ministers,

**Re: Maintaining critical agriculture-focused consulate capacity in Denver and Minneapolis**

On behalf of Canada's cattle producers, we are writing to express serious concern regarding the proposed elimination of agriculture-focused consulate staff positions in Denver and Minneapolis. We understand that these positions are housed through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and are affected as part of broader Global Affairs Canada budget reductions, however, now is not the time to cut key roles that are integral to the positive relationship between Canada and USA, through agriculture.

We also recognize that, the intent is for other consulate personnel to take on the agriculture portfolio as an additional responsibility. This is concerning, as the roles being cut were full-time positions with specialized knowledge, relationships, and day-to-day responsibilities. Their work cannot simply be absorbed by existing staff without a loss of capacity, continuity, and effectiveness.

The Denver and Minneapolis positions are especially important because they support engagement with U.S. states that are central to Canadian and Prairie agriculture. These posts help Canada maintain practical relationships with state governments, farm organizations, commodity groups, industry associations, and other stakeholders across the region. This kind of agricultural expertise is difficult to replace through broader, non-specialized diplomatic capacity.

Canada and the United States have one of the world's most integrated agricultural trading relationships, particularly within the cattle sector. The Government of Canada identifies dedicated resources for Canada-U.S. agriculture and agri-food trade, including support for exporters, in-market expertise, and engagement related to the evolving bilateral relationship.

The Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement has provided an important framework for that relationship, and agriculture remains one of the clearest examples of a trade relationship that benefits both countries. At a time of heightened trade uncertainty and renewed pressure on Canada-U.S. economic relations, now is not the time to reduce positions that understand agriculture, know the region, and can connect directly with U.S. decision-makers and stakeholders. These roles are not administrative extras; they are strategic assets that help prevent misunderstandings, advancement of policies and rules that have unintended consequences, support market access, reinforce Canada's credibility, and ensure that agriculture remains visible in broader diplomatic and trade discussions.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider these reductions and to work together to preserve meaningful agriculture-focused capacity in Denver and Minneapolis. Canadian agriculture needs strong representation in the United States, particularly in regions where the economic, supply chain, and policy connections with Canadian agriculture are significant. Maintaining these positions would be a practical and timely demonstration of the Government of Canada's commitment to defending and advancing Canadian agricultural interests.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the impact of these proposed cuts and the importance of maintaining agriculture-specific engagement in these key U.S. regions.

Sincerely,

Tyler Fulton  
President  
Canadian Cattle Association

Alex Kulchar  
President  
BC Cattlemen's Association

Chad Ross  
Chair  
Saskatchewan Cattle Association

Jason Leblond  
President  
Beef Farmers of Ontario

Larry Weatherby  
Chair  
Nova Scotia Cattle Producers

Brad Deleeuw  
Chair  
National Cattle Feeders Association

Doug Roxburgh  
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Arvid Nottveit  
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Manitoba Beef Producers

Trevor Welch  
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New Brunswick Cattle Producers

Allan Larsen  
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PEI Cattle Producers