



## **FARM LEADERS ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT TO COMPLETE LANDMARK CANADA-EU TRADE DEAL**

**February 3, 2012, Toronto** — At Pre-Budget Consultations held in Toronto today, the Canadian Agri-food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) encouraged Federal Trade Minister Ed Fast to conclude an ambitious free trade deal with the European Union.

Launched in May 2009, the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is a landmark trade deal that could open up lucrative European agriculture and food markets to Canadian producers and food processors. An FTA with Europe could include a wide range of issues impacting agriculture trade including tariffs, regulatory co-operation, bio-technology issues, sanitary and phyto-sanitary rules, rules of origin and inspection equivalency.

–Opening the European market for Canadian agriculture and food products is vital,” says CAFTA Executive Director Kathleen Sullivan, who participated in the consultations. –Canada exports half of its agri-food production. It is critical that we continue to identify new export opportunities for our high quality products.”

The Canadian government has estimated that the CETA could increase Canadian agri-food exports by \$3 billion a year. –A comprehensive trade deal with the EU has the potential to generate new opportunities for our key agriculture and food sectors including beef, pork and canola. Failure to achieve significant progress in these areas would be a tremendous disappointment and a missed opportunity for Canada,” Sullivan told the Minister.

CAFTA is pleased with the trade agenda undertaken by the Federal Government including FTA negotiations with the EU, South Korea and India and potential negotiations with Japan and the Trans Pacific Partnership. –This is the most aggressive trade program we have seen in Canada in decades,” said Sullivan. –We are pleased with the progress on the CETA to date but the time has come to wrap up negotiations, demonstrate our ability to conclude an aggressive and complex trade deal, and focus our resources on other key markets like South Korea, Japan and the TPP.

Canada is a world leader in agri-food trade. Canada exports \$40 billion a year in agriculture and food products making it the world’s 4<sup>th</sup> largest agri-food exporter. Canadian agriculture supports over 200,000 jobs in the production sector alone.

### **About CAFTA**

CAFTA is a coalition of national and regional organizations which support a more open and fair international trading environment for agriculture and agri-food. CAFTA’s members include producer organizations, processors, marketers and exporters from the major trade dependent sectors in Canada including beef, pork, grains, and oilseeds. Together, these sectors produce almost 80 per cent of Canada's agriculture and agri-food exports, conduct about \$40 billion in business annually and directly employ close to 500 thousand Canadians.

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