



CAFTA Looks Forward to Working with New Minister on World Trade Liberalization Agenda

Darcy Davis, President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today extended congratulations to the Honourable Michael Fortier on his appointment to the position of Minister of Trade. CAFTA also commends Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his foresight in recognizing the importance of this key portfolio in dividing the portfolio of Foreign Affairs and International Trade between two ministers.

“Canada is a nation dependent on trade,” says Davis. “The Prime Minister’s decision is very timely. Yesterday, the World Trade Organization (WTO) decided to hold a ministerial meeting on July 21 in an attempt to push the Doha Round of trade negotiations toward a successful conclusion. We will be looking to the leadership of the new Trade Minister in helping advance these negotiations towards a successful conclusion.”

CAFTA strongly supports the upcoming ministerial meeting as an essential step towards a new WTO agreement that reduces agricultural subsidies and creates meaningful improvements in market access for all Canadian agri-food exporters. Canada cannot afford to miss this opportunity to enhance trade through an ambitious Doha agreement.

Across Canada, the sale of export dependent commodities accounts for \$33.6 Billion or 80% of the annual farm gate receipts. Over 210,000 – or 92% of - farmers are directly dependent on export markets; they either export their products or sell them domestically at prices set by international marketplaces.

CAFTA is a coalition of national and regional organizations, associations and companies that have come together in support of a more open and fair international trading environment for agriculture and agri-food. Member organizations are the Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Pork, Canada Beef Export Federation, Canadian Canola Growers Association, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Oilseed Processors Association, Canadian Sugar Institute, Malting Industry Association of Canada, Grain Growers of Canada, Canola Council of Canada, Saskatchewan Pork, Sunterra Group, Canadian Pork Council, and Viterra.

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