

For Immediate Release



Agri-food election priorities emphasize trade as vital to Canada's post-pandemic recovery

CAFTA releases its top five recommendations for federal parties that put agri-food trade at the centre of job creation and economic growth

Ottawa, Ontario – August, 16, 2021– The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today released its top five policies to ensure agri-food trade powers Canada's post-pandemic economic recovery. CAFTA will be advocating for these ideas with candidates from all parties in every region of the country throughout the federal election.

Recognizing that agri-food exporters are at the forefront of sustainability, food security and growth challenges, CAFTA calls on parties and candidates in #elxn44 to recognize and strengthen the value of trade to job creation and resilient agri-food supply chains by supporting the following:

1. **Resolve CETA implementation issues for Canada's agri-food exporters** and review free trade agreements to maximize trade opportunities within 6 months of taking office
2. **Create a Chief of Trade Implementation** at Global Affairs Canada for agri-food exports to inform progress and better coordinate with industry.
3. Task the Ottawa group to **reinstate the WTO's Appellate Body** and shift from 'business as usual' policies to 21st century realities for the global agri-food sector.
4. **Immediately launch trade talks with the UK and ASEAN**; and conclude five FTA negotiations by 2023: UK, ASEAN, Indonesia, CPTPP expansion and India.
5. Enhance Canada's advocacy capacity within the diplomatic network **to promote the sustainability of Canada's world-class agri-food backed by a robust science based regulatory system** and to protect a trading environment based on rules, science and appropriate risk assessments.

QUOTES:

"These five ideas are practical, achievable and long overdue. They will help Canada seize opportunity and create the jobs and prosperity that are so critical to helping us recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Agri-food exporters stand ready to work with the next government and all parliamentarians to help Canada thrive. The post-pandemic global economy will be more fiercely competitive than ever before and by making the right policy choices now, our sector can provide Canada a competitive edge in global markets."

– Dan Darling, CAFTA President

“The recommendations we’re asking parties and candidates to support will differentiate Canada from international competitors and ensure we are not left behind. It’s time to get ambitious, play to our strengths and put the agri-food sector at the forefront of Canada’s economic recovery.”

– Greg Northey, CAFTA Vice President

CAFTA members – including farmers, ranchers and food manufacturers – contribute nearly \$100 billion to Canada’s economy annually and support one million jobs in urban and rural areas in every region of the country.

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CAFTA is the voice of Canadian agri-food exporters. Representing the 90% of farmers who depend on trade and ranchers, producers, food manufacturers and exporters who want to grow the economy through better access to international markets. This includes the beef, pork, meat, grains, cereals, pulses, soybeans, canola as well as the sugar, malt, and processed food industries. The sectors CAFTA represents support over a million jobs in urban and rural communities across Canada.

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