



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Pork Industry Acknowledges Government's Trade Efforts

Ottawa, December 21, 2011 — The Canadian pork industry would like to acknowledge the Canadian government's efforts to further Canada's trade interest at recent meetings in Europe. The Minister of International Trade, Ed Fast and delegation of Canadian officials were in France and Germany to advance discussions on the Canada-EU comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and in Switzerland to attend the Eighth World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting. Despite these supportive actions, the Canadian pork industry remains concerned with the lack of progress on a Free Trade Agreement with South Korea which is now having a noticeable effect on our current market share.

"A free trade agreement with South Korea is one of the most crucial Free Trade Agreements that can be completed in relatively short period of time for the Canadian pork sector," stated Canadian Pork Council's chair Jurgen Preugschas. "We are very supportive of the government's efforts to finalize the Canada-EU comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations and initiating a Bilateral Economic Partnership agreement with Japan due to the long term potential of these agreements for the pork industry. However, the lack of progress on a FTA with Korea is putting \$250 million of pork sales at risk of being completely wiped out within a year and will lead to lower prices for producers and the loss of jobs in the processing and value added sector."

Canadian hog producers, pork processors and meat traders and the many other companies in Canada that provide inputs and services to our industry have a very strong interest in Canada aggressively pursuing further progress toward reducing agri-food trade barriers and trade-distorting subsidies, and achieving additional market access through the WTO, bilateral or regional trade agreements.

"Canada is already among the world's top three pork exporters that exported to over 120 countries in 2010 and believes the World Trade Organization is an appropriate forum to ensure rules based trade," added Jurgen Preugschas. "The Canadian government's commitment to the multilateral process is key to maintaining existing pork markets and opening up new markets to pork is critical to the Canadian hog industry."

Canada enjoys many advantages in the raising of hogs and production of pork; including stable feed supplies, excellent animal health status, and very high standards of food safety and quality. Exports are the vehicle for growth in the Canadian pork industry given the modest potential for expansion in domestic consumption. Great opportunities exist in the long-term for increased sales of pork in the Asia-Pacific region and the European Union, as well as in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

The CPC serves as the national voice for hog producers in Canada. A federation of nine provincial pork industry associations, our organization's purpose is to play a leadership role in achieving and maintaining a dynamic and prosperous Canadian pork sector.

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