



THE HILL TIMES POLICY BRIEFING

AGRICULTURE

NOVEMBER 14, 2016



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Ag Minister MacAulay eyes opening Chinese market	Silver linings and steep fears over Monsanto-Bayer merger	Canadian agriculture: strong and growing	No time like present for Canadian agriculture	
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AGRICULTURE POLICY BRIEFING

Q&A **AGRICULTURE MINISTER LAWRENCE MCAULAY**

‘We’re the fifth largest exporter of food in the world, and the global demand is growing,’ Ag Minister MacAulay eyes opening Chinese market

‘That market is there, it is opening continually, it’s awfully important that we have the proper innovation policies in place,’ Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay says.

By **RACHEL AIELLO**

PARLIAMENT HILL—Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay is eyeing the opening Chinese market as a “vitally important” market for Canadian farmers to tap into and says he wants to make sure the industry has the ability to invest in innovations that will see the country’s sector poised to meet China’s rapidly expanding growing demand.

“The middle class in China itself has grown the size of this country every year. They want to eat as well as we do, so it’s vitally important,” said Mr. MacAulay, in a wide-ranging interview with *The Hill*



Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay, pictured at the Cattlemen’s Association event on the Hill in September 2016. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

Times before he left for last week’s trip to China.

“When I speak to the farmers and farm groups, I indicate that that market is there, it is opening continually, it’s awfully important that we have the proper innovation policies in place that the agricultural sector innovates. I want it to be Canadian farmers and processors and the people involved in the agricultural sector that takes advantage of this time in history,” said Mr. MacAulay, who was a Prince Edward Island potato farmer before he entered federal politics.

He spent the last week with agriculture ministers from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta, and more than 100 representatives from a number of Canadian agriculture product industries in China to work on the Chinese-Canadian trade relationship, focusing on exporting Canadian agriculture products.

According to the department, bilateral agriculture and food trade increased 13 per cent over the past three years to reach \$7.7-billion.

A snapshot of the Canadian turkey industry:



Turkey Farmers of Canada; Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada; Statistics Canada Reviewed October 2016



AGRICULTURE POLICY BRIEFING

Q&A AGRICULTURE MINISTER LAWRENCE MCAULAY



Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay visiting a Cows Creamery in Beijing on Nov. 6. *Image courtesy Twitter*

Mr. MacAulay also discussed the role the sector will play in reducing greenhouse gases, the new Canada Food Guide consultations and the challenges he’s facing in promoting investment in Canadian agriculture.

This interview has been edited for style and length.

The prime minister recently signalled Canada would not fall out of step with the U.S., Mexico, and Japan on the TPP. Will you wait for the others to sign first, or will Canada take the lead?

“We indicated what we would do on that, we’ll have consultations and a vote in the House and that’s what will take place. Nothing has changed on that, that I understand.”

Your government is emphasizing growing the economy and some see agriculture as a good sector to do that, but how are you going to make Canada the place where investors want to invest stakes into our agriculture products?

“The fact of the matter is, is that the demand for food—we’re the fifth largest exporter of food in the world—and the global demand is growing. The middle class in China itself has grown the size of this country every year. They want to eat as well as we do, so it’s vitally important.

“When I speak to the farmers and farm groups I indicate that that market is there, it is opening continually, it’s awfully important that we have the proper innovation policies in place that the agricultural sector innovates. And it’s also important of course to invest in science and research and to make sure you have the best products possible.

“And also you have to meet the requirements of these nations, but there’s no question the market is there, the Asian market in particular, of course we have a big market in the U.S. and other places too, but the Asian market is one that’s opening up and I speak about it many times and it’s so important that our farmers supply a large portion of that food.

“The agriculture industry provides one in eight jobs in Canada and that’s a big deal, and it’s going to be a bigger deal for somebody, and I want it to be Canadian farmers and processors and the people involved in the agricultural sector that takes

advantage of this time in history.

“I know many countries are talking about this, but you have to remain on the cutting edge. I believe we’re on the cutting edge but we must remain there. We have the best farmers and ranchers in the world, no question about it. We have the best climate to produce the agricultural products so we have to make sure that we produce these products.

“With innovation and science and research the production on farms is increasing, which means a bigger demand on our railroads when we ship our wheat. That all plays into what we have to do to make sure that the agriculture sector achieves its goals. The opportunity is there, my job is to make sure, with other people, that we accomplish that and to make sure that we supply a portion of this food to the world community.”

The current value of Canadian exports is \$60-billion. What are some ways you’ve heard from your provincial and territorial counterparts that they’d like to see the market access increased?

“We work very well together. I am in contact with provincial ministers right across the country and we work hand-in-hand and it’s so important, not only to put the next policy framework in place. We have to make sure that we have all the expertise possible. It’s vitally important that we present the product as the person in that country wants it. That’s what we have to do, and that’s what we will do.

“Perhaps they want different types of beef, perhaps they want other products done a different way, well, let’s make sure we can do that.”

The sector continues to be a key employer in Canada, but some groups are saying that one key barrier to their growth is the lack of labour, pointing to their use of foreign workers. Yet, there are a number of unemployed Canadians. What are you doing to address this gap?

“Of course there has been a review of the temporary foreign workers and my policy has always been—coming from Prince Edward Island, and being a farmer myself—I don’t think I used any temporary

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CANADIAN AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS:			
Total number of farms:	205,730	Cattle:	12.8 million
Total farm area:	64.8 million hectares	Pigs:	12.7 million
Total gross farm receipts:	\$51.1-billion	Hens and chickens:	133 million
Farm capital:	\$330.8-billion	Average age of farm operators:	54
Total number of farm operators:	293,925		
Land in crops (excluding Christmas trees):	35.4 million hectares		

Source: 2011 Census of Agriculture

CANADIAN AGRICULTURE STATISTICS 2013-2015

CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD TRADE (CDNS MILLION)			
	2013	2014	2015
Domestic Agri-Food Exports:	46,012.40	51,541.03	55,450.30
Agri-Food Imports:	35,259.53	39,460.36	43,515.81
Agri-Food Trade Balance:	10,752.86	12,080.67	11,934.49
CANADIAN TOP 5 AGRI-FOOD EXPORTS (CDNS MILLION)			
	2013	2014	2015
Domestic Agri-Food Exports:	46,012.40	51,541.03	55,450.30
Non-durum wheat, other than seed for sowing	5,103.19	5,771.17	5,874.40
Canola seed, low erucic acid	4,306.48	5,149.68	4,952.71
Lentils, dried, shelled	1,175.33	1,461.98	2,495.70
Soybeans, other than seed for sowing	2,005.07	1,904.70	2,237.90
Durum wheat, other than seed for sowing	1,574.63	2,179.71	2,037.77
CANADIAN TOP 5 AGRI-FOOD IMPORTS (CDNS MILLION)			
	2013	2014	2015
Agri-Food Imports:	35,259.53	39,460.36	43,515.81
Grape wines < 2 Litre	1,854.46	1,895.90	2,017.44
Food preparations	1,336.56	1,377.79	1,560.36
Bakery products	1,080.27	1,229.02	1,403.28
Dog and cat food, for retail sale	663.197	727.717	806.012
Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated	528	713.805	798.255
CANADIAN TOP 5 SEAFOOD EXPORTS (CDNS MILLION)			
	2013	2014	2015
Domestic Seafood Exports:	4,388.76	4,918.88	5,970.43
Lobster, not frozen	462.057	599.409	860.952
Frozen lobster	476.933	668.019	820.491
Frozen crab	704.672	758.955	817.649
Fresh Atlantic and Danube salmon	445.829	364.139	602.986
Frozen cold-water shrimp	348.489	365.349	444.276

Source: Statistics Canada

CANADIAN AGRICULTURE EXPORTS

TOP 25 CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS BY COUNTRY (CANADIAN DOLLARS)						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Growth 2015/2014
All Countries	44,397,764,509	47,723,430,102	50,401,160,676	56,457,908,294	61,420,734,788	8.79%
United States	22,069,718,977	23,607,685,946	26,008,406,202	29,542,511,765	32,626,485,931	10.44%
China	3,063,754,608	5,432,823,290	5,627,199,732	5,249,359,856	6,268,499,026	19.41%
Japan	3,950,481,213	4,226,941,357	4,103,815,871	4,076,375,647	3,812,898,040	-6.46%
Mexico	1,734,179,235	1,783,116,638	1,604,820,652	1,697,846,073	1,742,468,007	2.63%
India	640,831,846	532,367,506	737,639,721	914,731,212	1,534,765,529	67.78%
Hong Kong	597,743,470	759,956,112	923,691,691	877,865,262	874,279,969	-0.41%
Italy	479,759,081	392,361,112	424,752,752	786,249,017	757,317,738	-3.68%
Bangladesh	468,642,979	343,971,481	529,084,270	569,446,781	755,088,960	32.60%
Indonesia	367,118,492	390,348,990	562,962,507	569,907,982	669,114,896	17.41%
United Arab Emirates	704,621,379	519,353,875	388,880,736	518,272,470	635,447,442	22.61%
South Korea	1,083,253,758	575,076,336	411,913,507	622,055,943	617,494,548	-0.73%
United Kingdom	353,611,522	363,207,378	412,610,904	435,562,674	555,065,638	27.44%
Turkey	216,631,802	122,185,699	253,419,158	348,125,008	540,765,907	55.34%
Pakistan	509,295,875	158,044,800	39,593,007	262,479,490	531,633,248	102.54%
Peru	212,221,251	216,131,890	294,799,707	457,240,400	516,704,556	13.01%
Algeria	154,171,070	362,812,384	283,947,313	384,083,166	484,355,192	26.11%
Venezuela	366,491,259	390,233,485	483,455,700	456,613,110	470,836,627	3.12%
Belgium	419,207,100	362,472,788	365,291,048	531,190,929	413,165,284	-22.22%
Colombia	351,480,283	350,804,235	350,613,526	493,610,192	397,397,626	-19.49%
Philippines	190,099,863	182,608,463	251,004,245	183,060,537	368,050,108	101.05%
Netherlands	542,605,119	487,703,164	378,302,901	572,855,556	355,623,689	-37.92%
Viet Nam	126,281,014	145,845,259	202,129,226	238,769,064	354,326,622	48.40%
France	280,311,242	230,036,928	199,827,258	253,914,519	349,845,829	37.78%
Germany	279,718,078	304,072,886	298,008,219	247,229,945	285,485,739	15.47%

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

AGRICULTURE POLICY BRIEFING

NEWS CORPORATE MERGER

Silver linings and steep fears over Monsanto-Bayer merger

Takeover could improve reputation of bio-tech companies in the agri-food industry, but could also shift costs to farmers and leave powerful intellectual property in the hands of few big businesses, experts say.

By DENIS CALNAN

The creation of a monolithic bio-tech company with the merger of Monsanto and Bayer could allow the industry to reinvent its negative image, but some say it is another

step towards leaving bio-tech and genetics intellectual property in too few private hands, and could lead to higher input costs for farmers, say Canadian industry reps. The massive takeover is also just one of more mega-mergers on the horizon.

On the Canadian side, “the biggest concern would be around the consolidation in the seed side of the business,” said Ron Bonnett, the president at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

“If you combine Bayer and Monsanto, canola—which is pretty widely used in Western Canada—about 95 per cent of the seed stock would be controlled by the one company,” he said of the massive deal, which is still waiting for approval from a list of authorities, including government regulators.

But how the impending deal

would affect the competitive nature of seed sales in Canada is a big concern, said Mr. Bonnett.

He added that if the lack of competition drives up the price of the cost of seed, that increase may be shouldered by farmers alone, as the price may not necessarily be passed on to consumers.

While there are some criticisms of the merger in the agriculture sector, both in Canada and around the world, some observers are looking for silver linings in the deal.

“It is going to be good for the industry,” said Sylvain Charlebois, a professor and food distribution and policy expert with Dalhousie University. “Because you are getting rid of the brand that is the most hated in the world,” he added, referring to the Monsanto brand that may fade to black, thanks to this deal.

Over the past decade, the company has become one of the most despised corporations in North America and Europe, primarily for its role in proliferating genetically modified organisms in agriculture. There have been organized and well-attended marches against Monsanto in Canada and the U.S. over the past several years; a Harris Poll ranked the company as having the third-lowest reputation of corporations in America in 2014; and the hashtag #MonsantoEvil has trended on social media, along with memes.

“I think it’s actually better for the entire industry to move forward on this deal. It would allow

the industry to change its image a little bit,” said Prof. Charlebois.

“There could be a positive impact in terms of combined capacities or synergies between the two companies. It may also draw some attention away from the Monsanto name, and the activism against genetically modified organisms,” agreed Rene Van Acker, a professor and dean of the Ontario Agriculture College at the University of Guelph.

“On the negative side, I think producers will be watching to see if it impacts their choice in the marketplace,” added Prof. Van Acker.

“I am, though, concerned about consolidation for farmers in particular. I do see prices go up for inputs in the future,” echoed Prof. Charlebois.

He pointed out that along with this merger, another one is in the works between the Swiss-based Syngenta and China’s state-owned ChemChina, which could lead to further concerns for farmers.

“As soon as you have an oligopoly, it creates problems,” said Prof. Charlebois.

Andreas Boecker, an assistant professor in the department of food, agricultural, and resource economics at the University of Guelph, said that while the high tech domain of these companies limits the amount of players that can be competitive, technology may be evolving fast enough to allow for additional companies.

“We also see another technologi-

cal development that might change the whole game in the seed industry, and it’s the development of gene editing,” said Prof. Boecker, pointing to CRISPR/Cas9, a targeted gene editing tool, which has made genetic engineering less expensive.

“Another factor is that with this new technology, there’s a lot of research going on in the public domain,” he said, noting that it is impossible to know how this new technology will affect the seed industry.

No benefit for farmers

“I cannot see one farmer benefiting from that merger,” said Jan Slomp, a dairy farmer and president of the National Farmers Union, a voluntary members’ organization.

“It is scary in how few there are left, and how big the realm is, in terms of sales to agriculture of these few,” he said.

Mr. Slomp said he is concerned about the decline in public investment in plant breeding, which he said has been in lock-step with the increase of private investment, leaving the intellectual property rights in the hands of big business.

“The Bayer-Monsanto merger is scary on many fronts. We have already too few of these giants left, and if we drop too much potential in their lap for monopolizing food crops—genetics—we are way too vulnerable as people,” he said. “We should have way more balance between public and private ownership of genetics.”

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AGRICULTURE POLICY BRIEFING

AGRICULTURE FOOD SECTOR



There are parts of the country where food is grown, and it's easier to export it outside of Canada's borders than it is to sell it to another domestic region, leaving a gap for the import market to fill, some experts say. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

Canada sits on food sector goldmine, but needs to eliminate barriers to success, say experts

Food processing gaps, transportation weaknesses, and varying industry-imposed quotas in provinces are some of the hurdles preventing Canada from being a global leader in the food industry, say those within the sector.

By DENIS CALNAN

Exporting too much raw food product, rather than packaging it in Canada; an inefficient transportation sector; and a jump in food imports are all hindrances to growing Canada's food and agriculture sector, according to industry representatives.

First, if the country focused on turning its raw food commodities into processed food that are then shipped, that would help get a better price and aid in exporting an increased amount of food products, said Rene Van Acker, a professor and dean at the Ontario Agriculture College at the University of Guelph.

"It struck me that when the prime minister went to China, the issue that was raised in the media was foreign material in canola shipments that were possibly leading to issues around blackleg [a fungal disease] transmission to China. And if we were shipping oil or margarine that wouldn't be the case," said Prof. Van Acker.

He said there has recently been increased conversation about the needs of the sector to grow its exports, something he says is a "critically important economic conversation for Canada."

Ron Bonnett, the president at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, said there are some

strong barriers to producing more processed foods in Canada.

"I think there's a number of issues there. In some provinces it's energy cost, I think all across the country there's an issue with getting labour. We've been working a lot with the processing sector to try and really develop opportunities with respect to agriculture processing. I think there's a lot of opportunities there," said Mr. Bonnett, noting that Dominic Barton, the chair of the government's Advisory Council on Economic Growth, said that the potential for significant growth in economic prosperity from the sector is huge.

Growth in food manufacturing

Processing food in Canada "is an issue, but I sometimes feel like we have an empty glass-type look at all this," said J.P. Gervais, vice-president and chief agricultural economist at Farm Credit Canada, a crown corporation that loans money to farmers.

"We had wonderful growth over the last two, three years in food manufacturing," he said, acknowledging that Canada has a negative trade balance when it comes to food manufactured goods. "If you compare food manufacturing to all the other manufacturing sectors, we're shining. I mean it's plain and simple."

Even as the trade deficit has grown, he said the Canadian food sector can pat themselves on the back for still having a strong sector that will continue to grow.

Jan Slomp, a dairy farmer and president of the National Farmers Union, a voluntary members' organization, said while there is a lot of hype around Canada exporting an increasing amount of food, there is not enough attention being paid to the increasing amount of imports.

He said the increasing amount of Canadian food going elsewhere, in conjunction with the increasing amount of foreign food being brought in, leads to Cana-

dians being disconnected from where their food comes from.

"By producing for the world market and at the same time having the world market increasingly supply us with food, we basically disconnect the producer from the consumer. And I don't think that's a good thing," said Mr. Slomp, blaming the decreased prices that farmers are getting for their goods on the increased competition.

"I think the producer ends up with a smaller portion of the consumer dollar all the time," he said, while adding that he is not anti-free trade, but wants to see greater protections for farmers here.

"Free trade is a misnomer. If you look at the U.S. internal policies and the policies in Europe, they talk about free trade, but they have all the time trade barriers and we in Canada are among the boy scouts of free trade," he said. "We gave up our own protection right away but the U.S. and Europe are always holding on to that protection of their internal market," he added, noting he would like the agriculture sector to focus on serving the domestic market first.

Transportation a weakness

Additionally, the goal of exporting raw food without first processing it faces many hurdles.

"The main issue is not necessarily productivity, but transportation logistics," said Sylvain Charlebois, a professor, and food distribution and policy expert at Dalhousie University.

"Increasing the level of exports is always difficult when you just don't have the infrastructure," he said. "That, I would say, is the biggest challenge. Particularly out West, and they don't have a St. Lawrence Seaway there. Out East, it's never really been a problem, because moving things on water is quite easy," he added.

Prof. Charlebois said the grain transportation problem that Western Canada faced in 2014 is again affecting farmers' ability to get their product to market.

"It's going to be pretty challenging," said Prof. Charlebois.

In addition, some say that Canada needs to do a better job of being a customer of its own products; there are parts of the country where food is grown, and it's easier to export it outside of Canada's borders than it is to sell it to another domestic region, leaving a gap for the import market to fill.

Andreas Boecker, an assistant professor in the department of food, agricultural, and resource economics at the University of Guelph said the supply chain management model acts as a sort of trade barrier and can be partly to blame for the limits in movement of product.

He said the industry-imposed quota is limiting

"This, by definition almost, limits any trade that is going on between provinces because each province has its own quota and there is very limited trade between the provinces in dairy products, eggs, and poultry," said Prof. Boecker. "That limits trade significantly," he added.

The Hill Times

AGRICULTURE POLICY BRIEFING

AGRICULTURE **CARBON TAX**

Higher food prices, alternative proteins expected to result from carbon tax

‘I think the beef industry is going to face a major challenge in learning how to adapt,’ says Evan Fraser from the University of Guelph.

By DENIS CALNAN

A price on carbon, opposed by many in the agricultural sector, could lead to an adjusted Canadian diet as some things get more expensive and other options become more attractive for both consumers and producers.

“I’m going to stick my neck way out and predict within the next 10 years we’ll be seeing significantly alternative sources of protein on the market,” said Evan Fraser, the Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security at the University of Guelph.

“My guess on the emerging price on carbon is that it will affect the livestock industry the most and, in particular, I think the beef industry is most likely to have to adapt significantly,” he said, noting that it is the most carbon dioxide-intensive form of protein.

“It is significantly, significantly higher than our other main sources of protein, which themselves are significantly higher than plant based proteins—so legumes or meat substitutes,” he said.

“As a consequence, I think the beef industry is going to face a major challenge in learning how to adapt to having, say, a \$30-a-tonne price on carbon,” he said.

“A carbon tax is just not good news for cattle because the production cycle is just so long,” said Sylvain Charlebois, a food distribution and policy expert at Dalhousie University.

“If it does go through, you’re probably going to see some severe realignment within ag. And it may actually reflect what is happening with consumption in the end because you do see people eating less meat. So perhaps it may discourage some production and encourage some producers to look into other more sustainable productions,” said Prof. Charlebois.

Prof. Fraser said he believes the Canadian diet will adjust to changes.

“I think there’ll be new entrants into the protein industry. I think we’re going to start seeing algae-based proteins, plant-based proteins, legume-based proteins, possibly insect-based proteins as well,” he said.

“I have a group of students that just made me cricket flour brownies last week in class. And they were actually really good brownies,” he laughed.

Some in the agriculture sector say Canada needs to be careful about implementing a price on carbon.

“It could affect our competitiveness in the world market,” said Ron Bonnett, president at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

“Even provincially, I think there’s a bit of an issue that there’s not going to be a uniform approach across the country. So it’s almost like getting your hand around a bowl of jelly right now, trying to figure out what the overall impact is going to be,” he said.

Canadian climate policy negatively affecting the competitiveness of farmers is a big



Beef might prove to be so expensive in future years as a result of carbon pricing that Canadians and producers turn to alternative forms of protein, says Evan Fraser from the University of Guelph. *The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright*

concern for Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, which warns the impact would be enormous and opposes a price on carbon.

“If you’re growing grains or oilseeds or pulses in Saskatchewan, where I am right now, you’re selling your product onto the world market and so there’s a world price. And if you’re getting hit with a carbon tax and you’re already running on really small margins, that producer in North Dakota, Montana, Australia, that don’t have a carbon tax, they’re selling into the same markets at that same price and so you’re really making farmers in Western Canada less competitive with your neighbours and colleagues abroad,” said Robin Speer, executive director of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

He noted that the tax would make Canadian farmers less competitive internationally and in Canadian markets.

Mr. Bonnett said that while he sees the need to address climate change, there needs to be a uniform approach to pricing carbon not just nationally, but across the planet.

“It’s gotta be done ... on a global basis so that you don’t have one country get-

ting hung out to dry, while others aren’t responding to the issue, he said.

Mr. Speer warns that the effect of a carbon tax on farmers will have an impact on every step of the food chain.

“It’s going to ripple right through the entire agriculture value-chain, from the production of fertilizer in Western Canada to the farm and right through, like our local craft breweries, distilleries,” said Mr. Speer.

“It’s going to increase the cost of everything through that supply chain right to the grocery store aisle and the kitchen table,” he said.

Mr. Bonnett said the sector could use carbon credits to its advantage through its sequestering of carbon into the earth and methane digesters that process energy.

But he warned that it’s imperative for the market to be level for Canadian farmers to survive.

“I think it was fairly clear [U.S. president-elect Donald] Trump is not a big fan of looking at carbon as an issue,” said Mr. Bonnett, which will make levelling that field while lowering emissions more difficult.

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The Hill Times*



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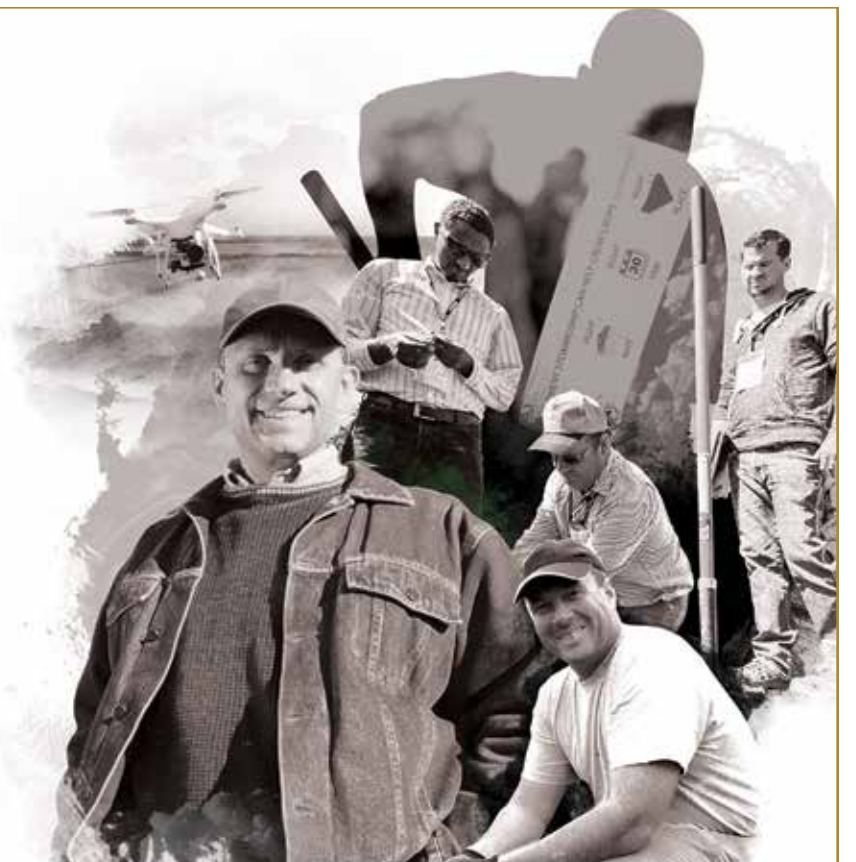
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AGRICULTURE MINISTER
LAWRENCE MACAULAY

Canadian agriculture and food industries are key drivers of our economy. "From gate to plate," these sectors generate over \$100-billion of our GDP and over \$60-billion of our exports.

Canada's food processors employ more Canadians than any other manufacturing industry in the country. At its foundation, there are over 200,000 producers and thousands of small- to medium-sized agri-food entrepreneurs.

That is why agriculture is a core priority for our government. I am firmly committed to supporting the agricultural sector in a way that enables it to be a leader in job creation and innovation. To do that, I have a number of key priorities, including trade, science and innovation, food processing, grain transportation, and environmental sustainability.

Trade is vital to the success of the sector. Canada exports about half of the value of our entire agri-food production. In fact, Canada is a top-five agri-food exporter and our exports hit new records every year. The prime minister recently signed the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), which will eliminate tariffs on virtually all of our agri-food exports to one of the world's largest markets for food. Industry estimates this could boost Canadian agriculture and food exports to the European Union by \$1.5-billion a year. That's good for farmers, for jobs,

and for economic growth across Canada.

Our government has tabled legislation to implement this landmark Agreement. At the same time, we are strongly supporting supply management by helping Canada's dairy industry adjust, given the increased access to European cheeses under CETA.

China is another critical market for our industry. China is Canada's second-largest customer for agriculture and agri-food, with a middle class that grows by the population of Canada every year. We have set a goal of doubling trade between our two countries by 2025.

I am just back from a major industry mission to China, where we showcased Canada's world-class food, beverages, and seafood -- from wild blueberry juice to beef, canola, lobster, and maple syrup—with a focus on the rapidly growing e-commerce market.

In addition, we have reopened and expanded our beef exports to key markets such as China, Korea, and Mexico, and secured our canola exports to China, while levelling the playing field with the United States through the repeal of country-of-origin labelling. I continue to deliver Canada's



Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay says that 'agriculture is a core priority for our government. I am firmly committed to supporting the agricultural sector in a way that enables it to be a leader in job creation and innovation.'

Photograph courtesy of Pixabay

message on the importance of science-and-rules-based trade to the global trading community. And we have committed to introducing legislation to strengthen our rail transportation system to ensure our products get to our global customers reliably and efficiently. On Nov. 1, our government also laid out a \$10.1-billion investment over 11 years in trade and transportation projects that will build stronger and more efficient transportation corridors so that Canadian products can better compete on global markets.

Innovation is a top priority for our government and it is critical

to ensuring the sector can continue to take advantage of global market opportunities and give the industry a competitive advantage. Research and development is at the heart of Canada's global agricultural success. Our ongoing private- and public-sector investment in research will be critical to Canada's ability to help feed the world. In Budget 2016, our government announced key investments in innovation and science infrastructure, helping farmers continue to grow their businesses and feed the world.

Action on the environment is also key to helping the sector

OPINION CETA

No time like present for Canadian agriculture

Rural leaders need to step up and scream that the burden cannot fall on those who are most vulnerable to carbon taxes—rural families and agriculture.



CONSERVATIVE MP
DAVID ANDERSON

There is an old saying, "There is no time like the present." Agriculture lives that out on a daily basis.

These are interesting times for Canadian agriculture. The sheer diversity of agriculture in this country is astounding. As the House of Commons Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee holds hearings on the developing Agricultural Policy Framework (APF),

we hear constantly of the incredible diversity of opportunities and needs inherent in Canadian agriculture. What will the new APF look like? With no defined fiscal commitment and with new pillars being added to the APF, can this government create programs that will work for producers across the spectrum?

A critical challenge for Canadian agriculture is to communicate accurately with a Canadian public that is increasingly disconnected from their food production and increasingly susceptible to misinformation about agriculture and food. Canadian agriculture is a world leader both in producing healthy food and in technological development. Producers have a great story for the public—we are growing, eating, and drinking the best food in the world. Our food safety system is a model for other countries. Public education needs to be an ongoing priority of Canadian agriculture.

Another present issue permeating our APF study is the issue of labour. Temporary workers, research scientists, agrologists, machinery operators, technicians—agriculture needs access to a much larger pool of labour if it is going to achieve its poten-

tial. Because so many of these positions are specialized and require unique qualifications, the solutions need to be specific to agriculture as well.

The success of agriculture in Canada depends on trade. The vast majority of agriculture in Canada must export. Agriculture always plays a major role in international trade negotiations. Balancing Canadian agriculture interests will be a challenge. Varying expectations, strong positions held by various agricultural interests, and the notion that any good trade deal will result in markets both being opened and closed keep our negotiators on their toes.

The recent step towards approval of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was critical for Canadian export trade. The future of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is unknown but a successful conclusion of it will open opportunities in a vast, and growing, consumer market. High-quality Canadian farm products are in ever-increasing demand in countries whose food habits are changing as their economies develop. We have the opportunity to meet those expectations.



International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland, pictured on the Hill. Conservative MP David Anderson says the recent step towards approval of the CETA was critical for Canadian export trade. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

There are at present some other serious challenges. A record crop in Western Canada is not in the bin, and there will be issues around quality. A single case of Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) and its aftermath has created a difficult situation for producers in south-eastern Alberta that will need to be dealt with immediately. Ranchers deserve greater clarity and a quick resolution.

Carbon taxes offer nothing positive for farmers. Some farm groups have apparently surrendered and the best they are hoping for is some sort of exemption (or even more unlikely, credit for past improvements). Farm leadership should be taking a strong stand on an issue that will decimate rural communities. So far there is no interest from the government in acknowledging

AGRICULTURE

OPINION FOOD

meet the growing global demand for food sustainably. Our government is investing in programming to help farmers practise climate-smart agriculture. This past March, we committed to helping farmers respond to climate change with investments that will make the agricultural sector a world leader in the development and use of clean and sustainable technology and practices with a \$27-million investment in the Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Program. As well, new crop varieties with built-in disease and drought resistance and “precision farming” technologies are all helping farmers reduce pesticide and fertilizer use, while conserving water.

Promising opportunities lie ahead for Canada’s agriculture and food industry. Farm incomes and balance sheets remain robust, and rising population and incomes will continue to drive demand for our world-class food. To help the sector capture the opportunities and meet the challenges of the coming decade, I am working with the provinces, territories, and industry on the next framework for agriculture. It outlines policy and program priorities that will be delivered by federal, provincial, and territorial governments when launched on April 1, 2018.

Canada has the best farmers and food processors in the world. As Canada’s minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, I am fiercely proud to serve this dynamic sector and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. I look forward to continuing our work to help ensure Canada’s agricultural sector is safer, stronger, and more innovative than ever.

Lawrence MacAulay is Canada’s minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.
The Hill Times

OPINION CETA

improved farm practices, increased carbon sequestration, and reduced chemical use; never mind an acknowledgement that producers are already paying thousands of dollars more for machinery with vastly improved emission standards. Rural leaders need to step up and scream that the burden cannot fall on those who are most vulnerable to carbon taxes—rural families and agriculture. Agriculture is contributing to a better world; let’s see it as part of the solution and not a problem.

Rail transportation is an annual issue in Western Canada. Shippers and producers are rarely pleased with the way the system works. Changes in 2013 made a positive difference, and producers were expecting that last week the Transportation minister would present an overarching vision for transportation. That did not happen and left many issues such as the interswitching and the revenue cap without a conclusion. A future commitment to some sort of reciprocal shippers protection is a start, but the proof will be in the details. There was “no time like the present” to deal with the rail issues, but farmers are once again left frustrated and will have to wait for direction until some future date.

Producers make agriculture work. The role of government should be to smooth the path to success. Allowing producers to produce, giving them the freedom to market, creating efficient and transparent regulatory structures where necessary and then getting out of the way—that’s the role of government. Canadian producers are the best in the world; let’s let them do their work.

David Anderson is the MP Cypress Hills-Grasslands and Conservative critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food.
The Hill Times

WHEEL OF CHICKEN

understanding your choices



Ever wonder what all those chicken labels mean?

Do you know the difference between free-range and free-run?

Take a look and understand your choices when it comes to buying chicken!

When you’re at the grocery store, make sure you ask for chicken with the Raised by a Canadian Farmer brand – this ensures you get fresh, safe, high-quality Canadian chicken that you and your family will love!

GRAIN-FED
Since all chicken in Canada is given a feed that consists of over 85% grain, this term is typically just used for marketing. Chicken labeled as “grain-fed” is stating the obvious, though some brands will mention special types of grain.

HORMONE/STEROID-FREE
Though it is rare, some marketers still classify their chicken as “hormone-free.” This is little more than a marketing tactic, since the use of hormones and steroids in raising poultry have been banned since the 1960s in Canada.

FREE-RUN
Free-run is different than free-range in that chickens do not necessarily need to be raised outside, but they are required to be able to move around freely within the barn. Chickens raised for meat in Canada are considered free-run.

FREE-RANGE
Free-range birds must have access to the outdoors. However, since there is no legal definition of free-range in Canada, this can vary from farm to farm.

VEGETARIAN GRAIN-FED
Vegetarian grain-fed means that the feed contains only vegetable protein such as soy, which can alter the flavour and colour of the meat. While chickens are omnivores, chickens can be raised on vegetarian feed, as long as an appropriate protein level is achieved.

HALAL
With respect to food, Islamic laws are very specific and Muslims seek to eat foods defined as “Halal,” which is defined by Muslims as “that which is allowed” by God, or “Allah,” the Law-Giver. Muslims are taught that the animals must be well-rested and handled in a way that minimizes suffering.

KOSHER
Kosher refers to the content and production requirements, not to any specific cuisine. In Hebrew, kosher means “fit” or “proper,” indicating the food products meet the dietary requirements of Jewish law. These laws are known as the laws of kashruth and deal with what foods may be eaten together and how those foods are to be prepared.

RAISED WITHOUT ANTIBIOTICS
Raised without antibiotics on the label means that the chicken was not treated in any way with antibiotics.

ORGANIC
Chicken sold as organic is raised to a specific standard laid out by the Canadian General Standards Board, in addition to the standards set by an organic certification board. Organic chicken must be raised with a certified organic feed that contains no animal by-products or antibiotics, and any supplements, such as vitamins, must be approved by a certification body.



chicken.ca | poulet.ca
chickenfarmers.ca | producteursdepoulet.ca

AGRICULTURE POLICY BRIEFING

OPINION CETA

Government needs to say what it's doing to help farmers deal with CETA

During the election campaign, the Liberals promised compensation for farmers. When they came to power, the tone changed.



NDP MP RUTH ELLEN BROSSÉAU

Now that the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union has been signed and Bill C-30 has been tabled, this is probably a good time to talk about two very important points.

The first is the need for compensation as promised by the Liberals for dairy industry losses. The second is the work the

federal government still has to do so that certain industries such as pork and beef can truly take advantage of the new market opportunities under CETA.

At the time of writing, the Liberals had still not announced any kind of compensation plan. Since they promised to announce such a plan in the coming days or weeks, by the time you read this, they may very well have done just that.

However, the Liberals joined the rest of the House in voting in favour of my motion M-496, which calls for the dairy industry to be compensated for losses under CETA. Also, right in the middle of the election campaign and following the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Conservatives announced a compensation plan to cover losses under both the TPP and CETA.

During the election campaign, the Liberals promised compensation for farmers. When they came to power, the tone changed: the minister of International Trade

said she did not consider herself bound to the former government's compensation plan, even though the industry had made it clear that the Conservative plan was the bare minimum. She recently came to her senses and said that a transition plan would be announced before CETA was ratified. Notice that she no longer refers to compensation, but rather a "transition plan." The government's change in tone has me fearing the worst.

By bringing in an additional 17,700 tonnes of cheese, CETA will cause up to \$116-million in lost milk sales. Unfortunately, the government still does not recognize that our farmers will suffer significant losses. Maybe they have forgotten that under supply management, the amount of milk produced is calculated based on domestic consumption, less imports. This means that importing these additional thousands of tonnes of European cheese will officially result in lower Canadian dairy production and permanent losses for our family farms. The

word "permanent" is important here; this is not just a transition—these losses will not be recovered. This is why the vitality of Canada's dairy industry critically depends on the government fairly compensating farmers for their losses.

The Liberal government boasts about new opportunities for other agricultural industries such as pork and beef, but there is still a lot of work to do before these opportunities turn into actual results.

Under CETA, on paper Canada will be able to export 80,000 tonnes of pork and 65,000 tonnes of beef five years from now. The regulatory situation is much more complicated. As it stands now, Europe requires certain changes to our slaughtering process that are unrealistic for our facilities and production volumes. For instance, in Canada we use citric acid and peroxyacetic acid as sanitizers for 80 to 90 per cent of the cattle slaughtered, but neither of these products is approved for use in Europe. Using European-approved products could increase

safety risks for the meat industry and would require costly changes to processing plants. The Liberal government needs to urgently resolve this issue so our farmers can truly benefit from new opportunities under CETA.

In closing, we in the NDP believe that the minister of International Trade mishandled the Wallonia situation. Not only do we strongly disagree with how she bullied Europe into signing on to the agreement, but we also believe that the minister should have used the opportunity to work on fixing problems with the agreement such as how it chips away at supply management and poses regulatory barriers to beef and pork exports.

Until the ratification vote, we will study Bill C-30 to make sure that the agreement will be implemented in a way that benefits all Canadians.

Ruth Ellen Brosseau is the MP for Berthier-Maskinongé, Que., and the NDP critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food.

The Hill Times

OPINION AGRI-BUSINESS

Value-added agriculture: much more than wheat and potatoes

The way we think about farming is changing. Canada's agri-business is poised to take the lead.



SHELLEY KING

In 2015, global investment in food and agriculture technology start-ups reached US\$4.6-billion, nearly doubling the 2014 levels. Why are fund managers so interested in this market? A look at recent trends provides some clues.

Demographics are leading the change in how we approach food and diet. Many countries in the developed world are facing aging

populations, an intensified focus on personal health and well-being, and an increased demand for sustainable food practices.

Consider these staggering stats on the growth of supposedly niche food markets.

Probiotics, touted for their beneficial impact on the gut microbiome, reached sales of \$1.4-billion in the U.S. in 2014. In the same year, U.S. sales of herbal dietary supplements reached \$6.4-billion. In fact, sales projections for all functional foods—products that have added health ingredients and that usually claim to provide health benefits beyond their nutritional value—are expected to reach \$54-billion by 2017.

Canadian companies recognize this opportunity and are delivering quality products designed to meet the needs of these consumers.

Take Bioriginal, a Saskatoon-based company that transforms raw materials from crops such as flax and hemp into nutrition-

packed oils, proteins, dry blends and many other products designed with the health-conscious customer in mind. With facilities throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia, Bioriginal serves others in the food industry, providing value-added ingredients and ready-to-market, finalized products that are then incorporated under global food brands.

In P.E.I., Nature's Crops International has developed a seed oil extraction and refining facility that produces specialty oils for industrial, personal care and nutritional markets. Crambe, for example, is grown and processed in P.E.I. and used in the production of polymers, surfactants and personal care products. The company has also developed a novel, proprietary nutritional oil called Ahiflower, which has the highest commercially available content of omega fatty acids of all plant species, and is gaining attention globally as a non-marine source of omega-3. These specialty crops that most people have never heard of are providing high-value opportunities for Canadian farmers and agri-businesses.

Thinking beyond the crops to how they are produced, the global market for agricultural biologicals such as natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers is estimated to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 14.6 per cent from 2014 to 2019.

Other industries are also benefiting from innovations derived from the agriculture sector—particularly those looking for ways to reduce their environmental footprint and maximize their outputs. For

instance, the bioplastics market, fuelled by consumer interest and demand for things like biodegradable packaging, is expected to reach \$30-billion by 2020.

In Guelph, researchers at the Bioproducts Discovery and Development Centre, in collaboration with industry partners, are coming up with solutions to meet these kinds of demands. Car parts, planters, storage bins and compostable coffee pods are being produced with plant waste, reducing the use of carbon-based materials, and in the case of the coffee pods, reducing the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills.

The common denominator among all this growth is agriculture, an industry that has made Canada the bread basket of the world. The examples mentioned above show that we can do much more than just produce raw materials and ship them off to foreign markets to be turned into high value products. Through the development of specialty crops, new formulas and recipes, the extraction of key compounds and the pursuit of environmentally-friendly processes and products, Canada is already taking a top spot in this burgeoning sector.

Natural Products Canada (NPC) is one of the strategic organizations across the country focused on helping companies turn our vast natural and agricultural resources into a gold mine of opportunity that provides jobs, revenues and economic stability. Born out of the 2016 competition of the Networks of Centres of Excellence, NPC aims to help Canada reap the benefits of a

faster, cheaper and more efficient process for commercializing validated natural products.

NPC leverages the country's history, expertise and outputs, world-class research and development, regional and national innovation and economic development agencies, and wealth of entrepreneurs who are passionate about the benefits of natural products for the health of humans, animals and the planet.

By partnering with members from all of these communities and connecting them to human and financial resources around the world, NPC supports a vibrant and connected ecosystem of companies, researchers, regulatory experts, business consultants and investors who can help streamline the commercialization process and ensure that more of Canada's great ideas turn into scientifically validated products and technologies that provide real value to real customers.

The companies and countries that seize this growing opportunity to develop innovative products from the agriculture sector have a long and fruitful road ahead of them. Investment—both public and private—in the businesses and programs pursuing these opportunities is a sign of smart planning and a strategic long-term view.

Shelley King is the CEO of Natural Products Canada, a commercialization centre funded through the federal Networks of Centres of Excellence and focused on establishing Canada as a global leader in research, development and commercialization of natural products.

The Hill Times

AGRICULTURE POLICY BRIEFING

Q&A AGRICULTURE MINISTER LAWRENCE MCAULAY

Agriculture minister eyes opening Asian market



Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay touring the Canada pavilion in Shanghai on Nov. 8. Image courtesy Twitter.

Continued from page 19

foreign labour, but over the years I certainly employed quite a number of people on a part-time basis.

"If you have the product, you have the infrastructure to process the product, and you have somebody who wants your product, but you do not have the people in order to process that product, but they're available somewhere. I believe that it's the government's responsibility to make sure we all work together and put policies in place so that will happen.

"I remember when we shipped 100-pound bags of potatoes from Prince Edward Island and I picked potatoes on my knees. Lots of potatoes, I grew, the human hand never touched them and that's 25 years ago, so we have to make sure that we assist in whatever needs to be done to make sure our companies and our processors are placed to value-add.

"We want to ship the vessel loads, yes, of seeds and grains and that type of thing, but it's much better if we could do it in 10 or 12-ounce packages on the vessel. I think it's my job too, to make sure that the processing side and the business sector understand the value and the advantages that are in value-added."

Given Canada's role as the leading canola producer, how would the potential takeover of Monsanto by Bayer affect the industry? Are you concerned?

"I don't know that it's appropriate for me to speculate about a business deal between two international companies, but any company that's doing business in Canada has to meet our domestic regulatory requirements and has to make sure that Canadian farmers function and thrive. That's my job; to make sure they do that in the changing marketplace we have to deal with these things."

The industry's greenhouse gas emissions have remained stable over the last 20 years. How do you anticipate the \$27-million you've spent to help farmers reduce emissions will make an impact in GHGs?

"It's fair to say that even in the agricultural sector they have made a number of changes in their program. You take no-tillage and for example in the beef industry, greenhouse gasses have declined 15 per cent per kilogram of beef produced. So you know they have made some major changes in the sector.

"You have to be smart to be a successful farmer and our farmers know what they have to do and they have been doing it. Of course, on climate change, in the next policy framework that we [provincial and

territorial ministers] met on last June in Calgary, we issued what they called the Calgary Statement and the agreement is that we're going to focus on carbon change and the environment.

"As you know that's what we canvassed on and that's what we wish to do. I mean, we have to do something if we want to live here."

Do you have a target for the industries emissions to be reduced, and what role does the sector play in overall reduction given the climate plan your government signed?

"I think it's important to realize that we're just really getting started at this. But the world community has also decided this is a big issue. Canadian farmers are responsible stewards of the land, they have good management practice, they have the best management practice because if you're going to exist in this agriculture sector you have to have that and, of course, they're big in innovation and new technology."

You were mandated to conduct a Canadian grain transportation system review, other than the roundtables you held this summer, what progress has been made on this file, and when do you anticipate a revised policy proposal?

"It's the minister of transport who had the mandate, but, as I said, I believe it was agriculture that created the situation, it was the problem on the Prairies with the grain that really brought this to light. We had consultations and I certainly worked to get the grain sector's input on how the national transportation system should work, and I had roundtables; many in the western part of the country and I received lots of information from the grain sector as to what steps they thought should be taken.

"Now I'm not saying what will be done, but some of the concerns were with inter-switching, reciprocal penalties, these types of things. He [Transport Minister Marc Garneau] heard it and I heard it many times; needless to say, he heard it many times from me too, but it's not appropriate for me to respond as to what might or might not be in the response by the minister of transport. But I can assure you I will be, and I am, keeping a close eye on it. We work very well together.

"With this transportation review, it's not for next year, or the next year, what's going on as we said earlier on in this interview, the world community is going to be looking for more and more products from us and we want to produce them and we want to move them.

"So the system that's out in place is not just for right now. It is for right now, but it's also for the next 20 years, or 30 years, so we have to make sure we have the right infrastructure in place to move this stuff. It's amazing really, the new technology and how

it works... We have the product, we have the wheat that everybody in the world wants, Canadian food is well-respected worldwide we want to take advantage of that."

Editors note: Since the interview, the government announced that in early 2017, it will "introduce legislation to advance a long-term agenda for a more transparent, balanced and efficient rail system," that would allow reciprocal penalties in service-level agreements between rail companies and its customers, as part of the Transportation 2030 strategy.

The health minister's Canada Food Guide overhaul announced recently is excluding the input of the food sector. Do you support this decision, why do you think industry should play a bigger role?

"Our government is committed to improving the health and well-being of Canadians, you have to be. As she [Health Minister Jane Philpott] said, we're launching consultations to update the Food Guide and to make it both easier, and so people can understand it. Input will help develop the new dietary guide that will meet the needs of a lot of different audiences.

"What you have to have when you pick up the package, you have to know what's in it. Fair game in my thoughts."

Are you hearing concerns from industry that they're being excluded?

"I don't think anybody is being excluded. If she talks to her sector, I'm talking to

my sector. I will continue to do that and any concerns they have I will continue to bring them forward, and of course there are always concerns, there very-well should be. My job here is to listen to what farmers have to say and do my best to convince government to adhere to at least some of the things that are brought forward. I doubt [I'll get] everything I want, if that would happen it would be some world, but anyhow it's my job to make sure that the agricultural sector is represented at the cabinet table and that the ministers responsible hear what the agricultural sector has to say on this policy and man many other policies in this country."

Okay, is there anything else about your file that you'd like to share?

"The opportunities that the agricultural sector has over the next 20 or 30 years to produce the food—the demand it's not if it's going to be there, it will be there and we have to make sure that we're in a position to meet those demands.

"We want to receive some of the benefit of producing that product because we are in as good a place, or probably a better place than most places in the world to produce this product. The government's responsibility is to make sure the infrastructure and the research and science and innovation is taken care of [so] we can produce it if we give people the opportunity."

The Hill Times



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Progress Through Research
Le progrès grâce à la recherche

FOSTERING INNOVATION IN CANADA

The Canadian Seed Trade Association's 132 members thank Members of Parliament and Senators for continuing to create an environment that encourages investment in innovation through Canada's updated Plant Breeders' Rights legislation.

Farmers now have access to new Canadian- and internationally-developed varieties that would never have come to Canada without the new legislation. They also benefit from a greater diversity of traditional and new agricultural crops such as triticale, faba beans, chick pea, lentil and mustard.

We all have a role to play to ensure that the investment continues to grow and the new varieties keep coming. Contact us at 613-829-9527 to learn how CSTA members care for the environment while delivering sustainable innovations that benefit all Canadians.

The Canadian Seed Trade Association is the national voice of 132 seed company members engaged in all aspects of seed research, production, and marketing and trade, both domestically and internationally. CSTA members work in over 50 different crop kinds, using organic, conventional and biotechnology production systems and range from small family businesses to large multinational firms.

cdnseed.org
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AGRICULTURE POLICY BRIEFING

AGRICULTURE VOX POPULI

Vox Populi on agriculture

Compiled by Rachel Aiello

Don McCabe, president, Ontario Federation of Agriculture:



"The issue of urbanization is massive. To give a direct impact in Ontario, from 2006 to 2011, using census data, we lost 350 acres a day to expansion. When you now have lands that are held for development into the future, you can

find that some of those lands are now being stripped of topsoil with a small part replaced to ensure they can be farmed until ready for a crop of houses. However, that's also to avoid other regulatory impacts like endangered species that may choose to move onto that land. The developer who now owns it wishes to make sure it's always ready for houses, not necessarily a crop.

"At the end of the day, the reality of farming is that it's the soil that counts. Our soils are a function of climate, parent material, topography, biota and time. When I buy that farm, I can't change the climate and I can't change the parent material. I might be able to change the topography with a big fricking dozer, but I didn't want to do that. I wanted to buy it for farming," Mr. McCabe said at the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on Oct. 27 during its study on the acquisition of farmland in Canada and its potential impact on the farming sector.

Norm Hall, president, Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan:



"Food is taken for granted and, therefore, land ownership. In Western Canada, we export 80 to 85 per cent of our production. Most of Eastern Canada is self-sufficient in food. A lot of our population takes

food for granted so there is no pressure on government to make any rules to keep farmland as farmland. The majority of our cities in Canada are built on some of our most productive land. What do cities do best but expand, and on to this productive land?"

"One of the things that the Canadian government could do is to help educate the people on the importance of food and the how finite our farmland is. ... By 2025, there will be six countries in the world that export food, and we'll be one of them. We're supposed to increase our production by 70 per cent by 2050. We can't do that if our cities cover all the land or if we've lost it to recreational purposes. Most land that goes out of agriculture production never comes back if it's in cities or if it has gone to some other use," Mr. McCabe said at the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on Oct. 25 during its study on the acquisition of farmland in Canada and its potential impact on the farming sector.

Corlena Patterson, executive director, Canadian Sheep Federation:



"It's clear that we're in an era of climate and environmental change. The agricultural sector needs to manage its role in environmental sustainability and requires funding to help implement changes in produc-

tion that will protect our environment for future generations of farmers. At the same time, the sector needs to learn to adapt to climate change that impacts animal health and disease incursions, changes feed and food production, and alters what we know about environmental stewardship.

"Producers need funding that helps manage changing disease risks, parasites on farms, and plant diseases, while helping to manage carbon emissions in this new era of carbon fees and taxes," she said at the House Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee on Nov. 1 during its study on the next agricultural policy framework.

Patti Miller, president, Canola Council of Canada:



"Support for resolving market access issues must continue, including adequate resources for the market access secretariat of Agriculture Canada and other government departments, such as the Canadian Food

Inspection Agency, that support our international trade efforts. Again, that was a key department in helping us through this recent effort with China. As we look forward to the next policy framework, there's an opportunity to continue the valuable Growing Forward 2 programs supporting research, market development, and market access.

"New priorities for the policy framework have also emerged, such as increased attention to value-added processing, as well as the environment and climate change. Our second recommendation is to ensure adequate funding for both the existing priorities and new priorities," she said at the House Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee on Oct. 27 during its study on the next agricultural policy framework.

Liberal MP Robert Morrissey, Egmont, P.E.I.



"Earlier this month, I spent some time harvesting potatoes at a large farm in my riding, owned and operated by Winston and Harris Callaghan of Miminegash.

"I was amazed at the technology involved. Today's farmers are employing advanced technologies and farming practices to produce quality food for Canadians. It is farms like these that earn Prince Edward Island its reputation as 'Canada's food island.'

"When farmers plant their crops, they are undertaking an extraordinary risk on our behalf. They will not see a paycheck until the next year, and it will be subject to unpredictable environmental conditions, crop yield, and market prices.

"It is essential that we, as lawmakers,

appreciate the experiences and concerns of our farmers in order to create agricultural policy that works for all Canadians," said Mr. Morrissey, on Oct. 28 in the House of Commons.

NDP MP Ruth Ellen Brosseau, Berthier-Maskinongé, Que.



"Supply management is supported by three pillars. The first pillar is production management or discipline, which means that the quantity produced is regulated by quota. Producers agree to produce what Canadians

need, and if they overproduce, they are responsible for those costs. The second pillar is producer pricing, negotiated based on production costs. Last but not least, the final pillar is one entirely in the government's hands, which is control over imports.

"Based on these three pillars, supply management is like a three-legged table or chair. If one leg is unstable, the entire system is unstable. That is exactly what is happening.

"For more than two years, the government has not been playing its role of import controller, and a milk product known as diafiltered milk has been pouring across our borders. This product was created for the sole purpose of circumventing the tariff rules, and in 2015 it was responsible for losses of over \$220-million for Canadian producers. From what the industry is saying, the losses in 2016 will be even more substantial," said Mr. Brosseau in the House of Commons on June 7.

Conservative MP David Anderson, Cypress Hills-Grasslands, Sask.



"Farming has changed over the years. I mentioned earlier about the technology that has changed, but certainly the crops have changed in our area as well. It used to be that we grew

nothing but grains and durum wheat. People did not think they could grow anything else. There have been new crops that have come in, and now lentils are grown probably more than any other crop in our area. Mustard is very popular, all three kinds of mustard; the oriental, yellow, and brown are grown in our area, and it is a big area for mustard growing in the world.

"We know that farmers and ranchers are stewards. They raise food, and they protect the environment. They have changed their practices over the years, and the food that is raised in Canada is the safest food in the world. We believe that is what we should be celebrating with the bill. Rather than talking specifically about food waste, we should be talking about food production, about the incredible ways and opportunities that farmers across this country have to be successful, and also about the food processing here. We know we have one of the best systems in Canada for food safety. We regulate for safe and healthy food, and we do that very well. Around the world, Canada is recognized as one of those producers of top-quality food," he said in the House of Commons on Oct. 4.

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THANK YOU

Dairy Farmers of Ontario thanks the Federal Government for its continued support of the Canadian dairy industry.

The November 10, 2016 funding announcement is an important recognition of the significant contribution dairy farmers and processors make to the Canadian economy. Working together, we will continue to modernize and invest in the infrastructure required to meet the demands of Canadian consumers and ensure dairy excellence driven by sustainable and reliable growth.

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