

October 18, 2018

The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

Dear Honourable Senators:

The Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) represents Canada's 43,000 canola farmers. With over 90% of canola exported as seed, oil or meal, maintaining access to current markets and opening new ones is vital to our sector. In 2017 canola exports were valued at over \$10 billion. In this context, we ask Senators to review and quickly approve the legislation to implement the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

This is a great agreement for Canadian canola farmers. Research demonstrates that the CPTPP will provide added benefits of \$780 million a year in canola exports, mainly in the form of value added canola oil. This will grow value-added jobs in Canada as we shift exports from seed to oil.

Timing is key. With the agreement coming into force 60 days after the first six countries have ratified, Canada must be part of this first wave. Already, Japan, Mexico and Singapore have ratified and we know that other CPTPP countries are close behind. For Canada to be part of the first six, moving the legislation through the Senate as quickly as possible is critical. The earlier CPTPP is ratified, the earlier tariff reductions can start.

To this end, the Canadian Canola Growers Association respectfully asks Senators to encourage debate and witness testimony to occur expeditiously. With significant discussion of the agreement having already occurred, Senators can be confident Canadian voices have been registered. In fact, CCGA expressed support for CPTPP in testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on April 26 this year as the Committee studied how the value added food sector can be more competitive in global markets. CCGA has also made similar testimony to various House Committees and through numerous public statements.

As a member of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, should the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade wish to hear from Canada's Agri-Food exporters, we fully support our views being expressed through CAFTA to keep witness numbers to a minimum.

We urge Honourable Senators to help Canada take advantage of the benefits of CPTPP and keep Canada's trade-reliant economy moving forward to the benefit of Canadians.

Yours sincerely,



Jack Froese
President
Canadian Canola Growers Association