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MAKE CANADA AN AGRI-FOOD POWERHOUSE

Canada is well positioned to be a world leader in the production and export of food for markets around the world.

Our agriculture and agri-food sector already makes a significant economic contribution, accounting for 7% of GDP and one in eight jobs across the country. From primary producers to advanced food manufacturers to agri-food based technologies and data analytics, Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector has a strong and well-earned reputation for efficient production, innovation, food quality and safety that has propelled Canada to be the fifth largest exporter of agricultural and agri-food products in the world.

There will be even greater opportunities in the future. Over the next decade, we will see an unprecedented expansion in middle class consumers around the world. The United Nations predicts world food production will have to increase by about 50% in order to meet global demand in 2050. Meanwhile, warmer temperatures in Canada are expected to boost the productivity of our agricultural sector and allow for the cultivation of new and more profitable crops. Consumer preferences are also shifting,

leading to greater demand for higher value food processing and placing a premium on food safety, traceability and the link between food production and health—all part of Canada's brand in international markets. And, the development of new technologies will spur greater opportunities for our agri-food producers to enhance productivity and commercialize new products and services.

In order to make Canada a global leader in high-value food production and exports, we need:

- A national vision and clear objectives for an agri-food cluster development strategy;
- A regulatory environment that maintains food quality and supports innovation and business growth;
- Policies and programs that support innovation and business development in our agri-food sector and enable our agri-food producers to expand exports in international markets; and,
- Trade infrastructure that allows Canadian agri-food businesses to get their products to market efficiently and safely while assuring high quality standards.

In 2018, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce will:

- Work with the federal government to develop a long-term vision and strategy for growing Canada's agri-food sector;
- Champion a more integrated approach involving federal and provincial governments in the development, coordination and implementation of policies and programs to enable the growth of successful and sustainable agri-food businesses; and,
- Work with the government to eliminate unnecessary regulatory obstacles to growth, leverage global standards and expand international trade opportunities for the sector.



CANADA'S AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR HAS A STRONG AND WELL-EARNED REPUTATION FOR EFFICIENT PRODUCTION, INNOVATION, FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY THAT HAS PROPELLED CANADA TO BE THE FIFTH LARGEST EXPORTER OF AGRICULTURAL AND AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS IN THE WORLD."

