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CETA – Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

Introduction

Canada and the European Union are currently engaged in negotiating the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. There are issues and concerns that need to be brought to the attention of our political leaders.

Resolution

Whereas Canada is a trading nation, and many of its farmers export their production abroad

Whereas Ontario has the third largest food processing hub in North America and a significant portion of that production is export-oriented

Whereas Canada's supply managed system for some types of agricultural production has provided a generation of domestic stability and is valuable

Whereas public procurement policies are important tools in driving commercialization and further economic development within individual provinces

Whereas it is reasonable for foreign investors to have some reassurance of stability and access within that market within the realm of regulations

Whereas it is not reasonable for a company to seize control of farm property and equipment on the suspicion of an intellectual property right violation

Whereas it is not reasonable to remove farmer's rights to save seed

Therefore be it resolved

That the CFFO cautiously endorse mutually beneficial trade opportunities with Europe as being positive for agriculture provided that certain concerns be addressed

Which are the Following

That our government supports the continued protection of the three pillars of the supply management system throughout the negotiations

That our government supports the continued existence of our Business Risk Management programming

That provincial and municipal procurement policies not be affected by CETA

That farmer's rights to save seed are protected under CETA

That suspicion of an intellectual property right violation is not sufficient grounds to seize farm equipment or other farm assets under CETA

That European Union barriers to beef imports around the use of growth hormones be removed

That European Union barriers to Genetically Modified Organisms be reduced to a more reasonable level

That Canadian regulatory standards on the environment and animal welfare remain independent of European Union standards

That CETA will not impact Canadian sovereignty over its natural resources

Adopted By
CFFO Provincial Council
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