

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

Introduction

Canada and 10 other countries, including, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand are currently engaged in negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a multi-lateral trade agreement. There are issues and concerns for agriculture 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 second 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 the trade negotiation process lacks transparency

Whereas trade negotiations have the potential to override provincial priorities or policies in the area of procurement or limitations on foreign ownership

Whereas Provincial Business Risk Management Programs have been identified as concerns by potential trading partners due to potential market distortion

Therefore be it resolved

That the CFFO cautiously endorse mutually beneficial trade opportunities through the TPP 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 support the continued existence of our national framework of Business Risk Management programming under Growing Forward 2.

That matters that are "settled" early in the negotiation process be made public knowledge, such that stakeholders are aware of changes earlier.

That trade negotiations will not place unwanted constraints on provincial policies in the area of procurement or limitations on foreign ownership

That Provincial Business Risk Management Programs be allowed to continue provided adequate limits on potential market distortion are developed, such as a serious cap on individual payments at a much lower threshold than currently allowed in all provinces.

Adopted by
CFFO Provincial Council
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