

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

Quote: 252034

AOUT 23 2019
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Mr. Al Kemmere
President
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
2510 Sparrow Drive
Nisku AB T9E 8N5

Dear Mr. Kemmere:

Thank you for your follow-up letter regarding exports to China. I acknowledge your concerns and regret the delay in this response.

Please be assured that the Government of Canada is committed to restoring access to the China canola seed market and to resolving current trade issues impacting Canada's export of canola, pork, and beef to China in close collaboration with provincial governments, industry, and Canadian farmers.

To further advance the resolution of this issue, Canada formally raised the matter with its counterparts at the World Trade Organization (WTO) through the General Council and also addressed a letter to the Chinese Ambassador to the WTO regarding China's actions. The Government of Canada's message remains clear: we continue to seek further evidence of any issues with Canadian canola. Canada continues to strongly encourage China to participate in a face-to-face, in-depth technical meeting with our plant health experts as soon as possible in order to identify a solution.

To provide additional support to the sector, on June 13, 2019, Export Development Canada (EDC) announced an additional \$150 million in insurance support to Canadian canola exporters. This support will protect exporters from the risks and uncertainty that come with exploring new markets. EDC's additional \$150-million insurance support will allow canola exporters to explore non-traditional markets such as Bangladesh and Pakistan, which have been identified as promising regions to focus on in the short term. EDC will continue to work with stakeholders, partners, and exporters to find other markets of opportunity for Canadian companies.

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Canada

Federal, provincial, and territorial governments are committed to addressing market access issues and will continue to work with stakeholders to explore all potential options and develop strategies to resolve them, including looking at ways to enhance the suite of business risk management programs. As mentioned in previous correspondence, the Government–Industry Canola Working Group continues to meet regularly to develop and coordinate strategies on the market access issue with China, market diversification, and support to the sector.

The decision to appoint a new ambassador to China is an important one, and in the interim, Canadian interests are well served by Chargé d’Affaires Jim Nickel, an experienced diplomat with a wealth of knowledge about the Canada–China relationship.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you. Again, thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Bibeau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, PC, MP