

March 23, 2020

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Deputy Prime Minister of Canada
and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland:

I am writing on behalf of the over 300,000 proud Canadians working hard at making the staple foods, personal care products, household cleaners and over-the-counter drugs (OTCs) to keep up with the record demand as Canada copes with COVID-19.

Food & Consumer Products of Canada (FCPC) is Canada's largest national industry association representing companies that manufacture and distribute the vast majority of food, beverage and consumer goods found on grocery and drugstore shelves. The industry we represent is the largest source of manufacturing jobs in the country. Our membership is truly national, providing value-added jobs to Canadians in urban and rural communities in every region of the country. Please find attached our member company logos.

First and foremost, we commend the government's response to date on the COVID-19 virus. The actions taken thus far are the right steps in dealing with the economic impact of this fast-changing situation. The Prime Minister's strong statement supporting critical supply chains, including essential goods, food and medicines, is welcome news for our members as most of the trade for the food and consumer product industry is with the United States.

We also applaud the government's timely response and flexibility to ensure predictable access to ingredients and supplies, the continuity of the Temporary Foreign Workers Program that food manufacturers rely on, and the facilitation of the flow of technical personnel to preserve the vital supply chains between Canada and the U.S. These measures will allow commerce to continue uninterrupted.

As the government continues to accelerate its response to COVID-19, we wish to share with you some key considerations on behalf of our member companies.

With the U.S. Administration's recent announcement confirming the food supply as critical infrastructure, we ask the government for similar guidance and formal communications reinforcing the food and consumer products industry, their supply chains and workforce as essential critical infrastructure. This would provide the necessary reassurances and clarity to our member companies to

allow them to plan, operate and communicate during this unpredictable period.

As governments across the country continue to communicate with residents about essential and non-essential activities, and as most have either a State of Emergency or a Public Health Emergency in place, businesses and their employees are seeking certainty about their ability to continue operations and show up to work. FCPC has prepared recommendations for either scenario, in order to ensure the integrity of the food and consumer goods sector. For your consideration, we have enclosed lists of suggested essential businesses and workers, which align closely to the lists released last week by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, with some additions. It is important that Canada aligns with the U.S. given they are our most important trading partner and our markets are highly integrated.

In addition to food, Canadians rely on a wide range of consumer products, from batteries, soap, paper products, diapers, over-the-counter drugs (OTCs), laundry products, health supplements to disinfectants for their daily lives. Given the essential nature of these products, we ask the government to formally recognize consumer products alongside food in the Canada's National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure.

Keeping grocery and drug stores stocked with essential food and household products depends on keeping our manufacturing facilities and supply chain workforce healthy and open for business. We help Canada's largest manufacturing workforce stay healthy and support our colleagues to stay home from work if they get sick. We continue to uphold the most stringent standards for personal equipment, product hygiene and safety in our facilities.

The government's message to stay home is causing anxiety and confusion among workers throughout our entire supply chain. Worker absenteeism could be a concern and worsen in the coming weeks ahead. We encourage the government to speak publicly about the importance of the over 300,000 workers responsible for making essential food and consumer products. A letter from the government for companies to send to their employees to thank them for their important work, reiterate how their health is a priority, and provide guidance around working during these difficult times would be very helpful.

Lastly, Canada's food and consumer products industry is laser focused on one thing – ensuring Canadians have the products that they need. We ask the government for a temporary pause on regulatory work not related to COVID-19 and to consider common-sense measures such as temporary mutual recognition of regulations and/or fast-tracking compliance checks to facilitate the movement of essential products entering into Canada. This would help avoid diminishing the resources available to the COVID-19 response and only be for a limited time during these exceptional circumstances to ensure that we have adequate supply in Canada.

We support the government's leadership in this rapidly changing situation. We continue to be a resource to you and your cabinet colleagues on all supply chain discussions as we work together to ensure that food and consumer product manufacturers can continue to operate and provide the products that Canadians rely on.

Sincerely,



Michael Graydon
Chief Executive Officer
Food & Consumer Products of Canada

c.c.: The Honourable Patty Hadju, P.C., M.P., Minister of Health
The Honourable William Francis Morneau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Finance
The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P., President of the Treasury Board
The Honourable Navdeep Singh Bains, P.C., M.P., Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
The Honourable William Blair, P.C., M.P., Minister of Public Safety
The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages
The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, P.C., M.P., Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, P.C., M.P.

Encl. Suggested Lists of Essential Businesses and Workers

LIST 1 - ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

- Manufacturers of food and beverage: fresh or packaged foods for human or pet consumption, beverages, vitamins and dietary supplements; and food processors (i.e.: packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.)
- Manufacturers of consumer goods: cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting supplies; tissue and paper household products; diapers, incontinence and menstrual products; hand sanitizer, soaps and personal care products; detergents; products to preserve food
- Any partner in the supply, packing, warehousing and distributing of food, beverage and consumer goods
- Suppliers of product packaging and secondary packaging, labelling, ingredients, food additives
- companies engaged in the production of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids

LIST 2 - ESSENTIAL WORKERS

HEALTHCARE / PUBLIC HEALTH

- Manufacturers, technicians, logistics and warehouse operators, and distributors of medical equipment and devices, personal protective equipment (PPE), pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, tissue and paper towel products, diapers, incontinence products, menstrual products, batteries

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing (Packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.) facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; and beverage production facilities; vitamin and dietary supplement facilities, and the production of food packaging or products to preserve food
- Farm workers to include those employed in animal food, feed, and ingredient production, packaging, and distribution; manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to produce our food supply domestically
- Farm workers and support service workers to include those who field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs
- Employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor- managed inventory controllers and block chain managers

- Workers supporting the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail
- Company cafeterias - in-plant cafeterias used to feed employees
- Workers in food testing labs in private industries and in institutions of higher education
- Workers essential for assistance programs and government payments
- Employees of companies engaged in the production of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health; manufacturing and distribution of animal medical materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, feed ingredients, feed, and bedding, etc.; transportation of live animals, animal medical materials; transportation of deceased animals for disposal; raising of animals for food; animal production operations; slaughter and packing plants and associated regulatory and government workforce
- Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

- Employees supporting or enabling transportation functions, including dispatchers, maintenance and repair technicians, warehouse workers, truck stop and rest area workers, and workers that maintain and inspect infrastructure (including those that require cross-border travel)
- Employees of firms providing services that enable logistics operations, including cooling, storing, packaging, and distributing products for wholesale or retail sale or use.
- Mass transit workers
- Workers responsible for operating dispatching passenger, commuter and freight trains and maintaining rail infrastructure and equipment
- Maritime transportation workers - port workers, mariners, equipment operators
- Truck drivers who haul hazardous and waste materials to support critical infrastructure, capabilities, functions, and services
- Automotive repair and maintenance facilities
- Manufacturers and distributors (to include service centers and related operations) of packaging materials, pallets, crates, containers, and other supplies needed to support manufacturing, packaging staging and distribution operations
- Postal and shipping workers, to include private companies
- Employees who repair and maintain vehicles, aircraft, rail equipment, marine vessels, and the equipment and infrastructure that enables operations that encompass movement of cargo and passenger
- Employees or private operators for home delivery services, local business courier services for goods deemed essential.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Communications:

- Maintenance of communications infrastructure- including privately owned and maintained communication systems- supported by technicians, operators, call-centers, wireline and wireless providers, cable service providers, satellite operations, undersea cable landing stations, Internet Exchange Points, and manufacturers and distributors of communications equipment
- Engineers, technicians and associated personnel responsible for infrastructure construction and restoration, including contractors for construction and engineering of fiber optic cables
- Installation, maintenance and repair technicians that establish, support or repair service as needed
- Central office personnel to maintain and operate central office, data centers, and other network office facilities
- Customer service and support staff, including managed and professional services as well as remote providers of support to transitioning employees to set up and maintain home offices, who interface with customers to manage or support service environments and security issues, including payroll, billing, fraud, and troubleshooting
- Dispatchers involved with service repair and restoration

Information Technology:

- Data center operators, including system administrators, HVAC & electrical engineers, security personnel, IT managers, data transfer solutions engineers, software and hardware engineers, and database administrators
- Client service centers, field engineers, and other technicians supporting critical infrastructure, as well as manufacturers and supply chain vendors that provide hardware and software, and information technology equipment (to include microelectronics and semiconductors) for critical infrastructure
- Workers responding to cyber incidents involving critical infrastructure, including medical facilities, SLTT governments and federal facilities, energy and utilities, and banks and financial institutions, and other critical infrastructure categories and personnel
- Workers supporting the provision of essential global, national and local infrastructure for computing services (incl. cloud computing services), business infrastructure, web-based services, and critical manufacturing
- Workers supporting communications systems and information technology used by law enforcement, public safety, medical, energy and other critical industries
- Support required for continuity of services, including janitorial/cleaning personnel

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

- Workers necessary for the manufacturing of materials and products needed for medical supply chains, transportation, energy, communications, food and agriculture, chemical manufacturing,

public health and personal hygiene, nuclear facilities, the operation of dams, water and wastewater treatment, emergency services, and the defense industrial base.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Workers managing waste from pharmaceuticals and medical material production, and workers at laboratories processing test kits
- Workers who support hazardous materials response and cleanup
- Workers who maintain digital systems infrastructure supporting hazardous materials management operations

CHEMICAL

- Workers supporting the chemical and industrial gas supply chains, including workers at chemical manufacturing plants, workers in laboratories, workers at distribution facilities, workers who transport basic raw chemical materials to the producers of industrial and consumer goods, including hand sanitizers, disinfectants, food and food additives, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and paper products.
- Workers supporting the safe transportation of chemicals, including those supporting tank truck cleaning facilities and workers who manufacture packaging items
- Workers supporting the production of protective cleaning and medical solutions, personal protective equipment, and packaging that prevents the contamination of food, water, medicine, among others essential products
- Workers supporting the operation and maintenance of facilities (particularly those with high risk chemicals and/or sites that cannot be shut down) whose work cannot be done remotely and requires the presence of highly trained personnel to ensure safe operations, including plant contract workers who provide inspections
- Workers who support the production and transportation of chlorine and alkali manufacturing, single-use plastics, and packaging that prevents the contamination or supports the continued manufacture of food, water, medicine, and other essential products, including glass container manufacturing

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Workers who are needed to process and maintain systems for processing financial transactions and services (e.g., payment, clearing, and settlement; wholesale funding; insurance services; and capital markets activities)
- Workers who support financial operations, such as those staffing data and security operations centers