

December 3rd, 2020

Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Food Canada,
1341 Baseline Road,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Hon. Ernie Hardeman, MPP,
Minister, Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs,
77 Grenville Street,
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Bibeau and Minister Hardeman:

Our associations want to express their appreciation and gratitude that the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers put the issue of a Grocery Code of Conduct on the agenda for discussion at your recent meeting. We are also delighted that the result of your collective deliberations, was a decision for both the Federal government, the Provinces and Territories to establish a working group with industry to review the issues that have required us to call for a Code.

As you know, on October 27th, on behalf of our respective associations representing sectors that encompass the entire supply chain in Canada's agri-food industry, we wrote to both of you in your capacity as the Co-Chairs of the 2020 FPT Ministers of Agriculture and Agri-Food meeting last week.

Our letter requested that the FPT Ministers discuss the issue of consolidation in Canada's food industry which has, in our view, distorted what should be the norm of fair market practices. These practices have and will continue to have, if left unchecked, a significant impact on the ability of Canada's farmers, independent grocers and our food and beverage producers and processors, to compete fairly, innovate and invest in their own businesses. There will also be a corresponding impact on food security, food prices and employment.

Our objective remains that of establishing a Grocery Code of Conduct that applies to and benefits all stakeholders in our agricultural and food industry. It is time that various stakeholders in our industry begin talking to each other in a collaborative and inclusive process. We look forward to hearing more about how the working group process will be facilitated and what constructive and supportive role we can play on behalf of our respective associations.

Thank you again for your support and we welcome the opportunity of working with both of you and your Ministerial colleagues across the country to protect Canadian consumers, jobs and provide more fairness and predictability that will encourage more innovation and investment in our industry.



PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Effective December 1st 2020, BAC's mailing address will be changed to:
7891 Sunnyside Drive, Unit 102, Mississauga, ON L5S 1S9
Our phone and fax numbers remain the same:
905-451-0148 or 905-478-1225 fax 905-451-0993
While BAC staff continues to work remotely,
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