



## *Communiqué*

### **Canadian Hog Producers Delighted with New Pork Export Agreement with China**

*Ottawa, April 20, 2000* **SS** “Hearty congratulations go to the federal government on signing an agreement with China that provides a major improvement in the terms of access to that country for Canadian pork exports”, said Edouard Asnong, President of the Canadian Pork Council (CPC).

“We depend upon foreign markets for selling more than 40% of the production coming from Canada’s 20,000 hog farms”, added Mr. Asnong, who finishes hogs in Pike River, Québec. “Opening the Chinese market, with its 1.3 billion population and where pork is the preferred type of meat to begin with, adds an enormous additional export potential for the Canadian hog and pork industries.”

Of Canada’s 1999 pork meat exports of 519,000 tonnes, well under 1% went to China through a special import permit arrangement. The new agreement signed this week by Hon Lyle Vanclief, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, makes it possible for Canadian pork exporters to ship to China without such special permits.

Canada earlier reached an agreement with China on the terms of entry of that country into the World Trade Organization (WTO). When this occurs, after all WTO members have reached accession agreements, there will be a significant reduction in the import tariff rate which will provide further incentives for increased Canadian pork exports to China.

“The CPC wishes to pay special tribute to the work of officials with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for their considerable effort in convincing their Chinese counterparts of the safety and quality of Canadian pork that allowed China to agree to remove certain import requirements that had made exports to that country very difficult”, said Mr. Asnong. “This agreement truly represents an important milestone in the advancement of Canada’s pork export potential.”

Canada Pork International, the export development arm of the Canadian pork industry, will be organizing exporter visits and conducting trade seminars for Chinese importers later this year.

The Canadian Pork Council is the national federation of provincial hog producer organizations.

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