



## Canadian Pork Council: We Must Make the Most of Hong Kong

For Immediate Release

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(Ottawa) – “Canada must make the most of the upcoming WTO Ministerial meeting to reinvigorate the Doha Round effort toward more liberalized and fair trade,” says Clare Schlegel, President of the Canadian Pork Council (CPC).

“It appears unlikely that agreement will be reached on the exact size of tariff cuts and other ‘modalities’ as had been hoped earlier. However, it is critically important for Canada’s growing international pork export business that the Hong Kong meeting arrives at a clear commitment to complete the Doha Round within as short a time frame as possible, and still achieve its original objectives of ‘reform and liberalization of trade policies,’” adds Mr. Schlegel.

“Canada is already among the world’s top three pork exporters. Nevertheless, as the United States and Mexico continue to grow as pork exporters themselves, our industry becomes increasingly dependent upon non- NAFTA countries to simply maintain our existing sales, let alone the future growth that our industry is poised to experience,” explains Schlegel, who finishes hogs near Stratford, Ontario. “This is why the WTO talks are so important to pork producers,” he maintains.

The value of Canada’s pork exports for 2005 is projected to be nearly \$3 billion. This compares with less than \$1 billion just 10 years ago. Canada now exports to 100 countries around the world. Canadian pork exports to non-NAFTA markets have almost tripled from 1999 to 2005 (see attached chart).

Key objectives from the Doha round for Canada’s pork industry include:

- elimination or major reduction of all tariffs on pork;
- elimination of export subsidies;
- further cuts in trade-distorting domestic subsidies while maintaining flexibility to deal with emergencies such as with a foreign animal disease;
- reforms in trade rules to limit use of countervailing and antidumping duties as protection against normal import competition; and,
- tariff rate quota administrative reforms towards honouring the spirit of the Uruguay Round commitments on minimum market access.

The CPC will have a delegation in attendance at the meetings being held in Hong Kong in December.

The Canadian Pork Council is the national association representing the interests of Canada's hog producers. For a complete description of the Canadian hog and pork industry's objectives from the Doha round of WTO negotiations, please go to [www.cpc-ccp.com](http://www.cpc-ccp.com)

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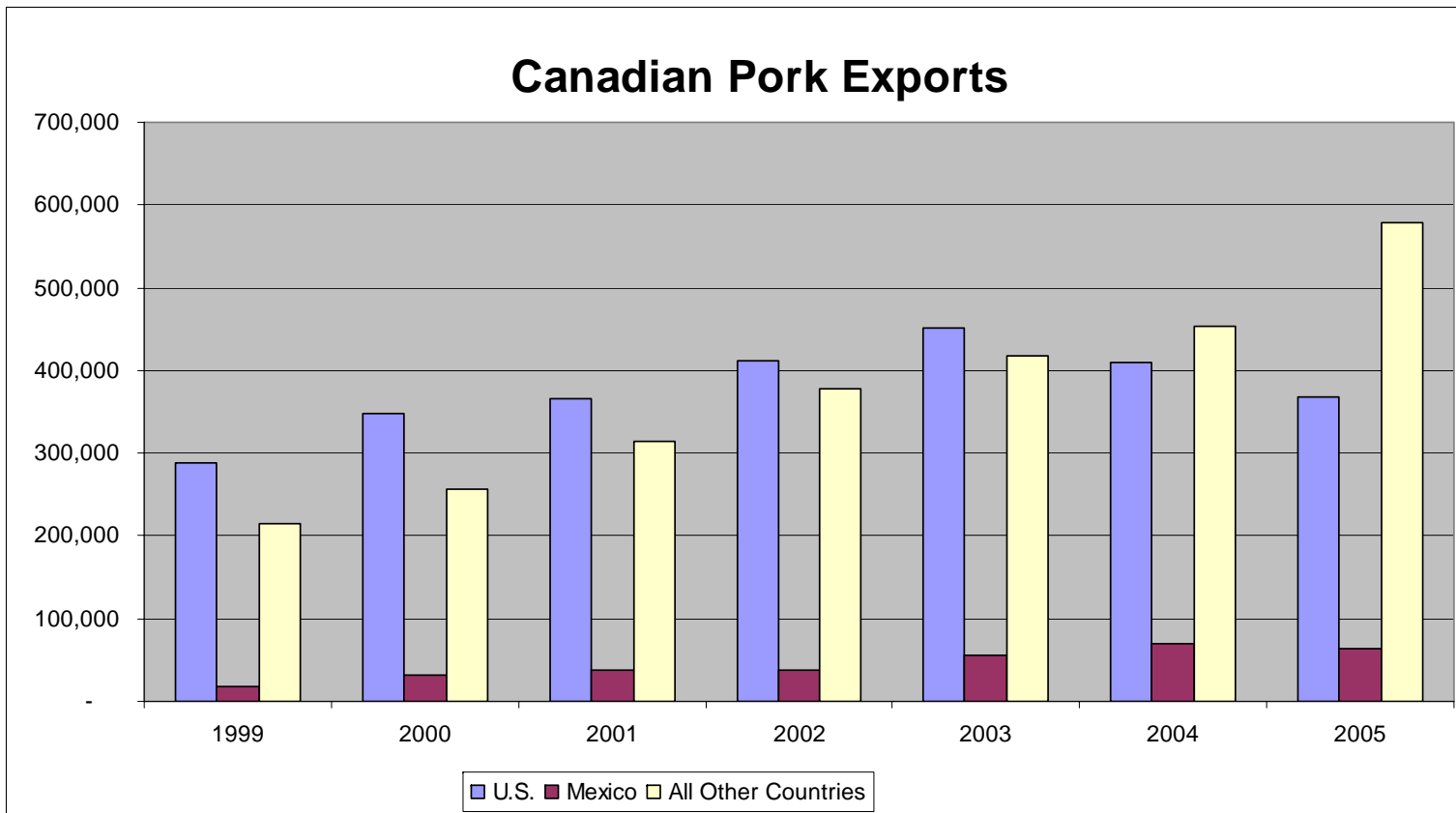
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Source: Statistics Canada for 1999-2004, CPC projection for 2005 based on 9 months of actual data.