



## **Canadian Pork Council Appreciates Governments' Recognition of Crisis; Needs Signals Immediately**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ottawa** – The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) is pleased to see the federal and provincial governments' are recognizing the severe challenges facing the industry, but stresses there is an immediate need to find solutions for Canada's hog producers.

"Hog producers are facing a crisis of epic proportions," said Mr. Clare Schlegel, President of the Canadian Pork Council. "The soaring value of the Canadian dollar, staggering increases in the price of feed, and falling hog prices threaten to decimate our entire industry."

"The situation is critical," he added. "Producers are seeing unparalleled losses on their farms, due to circumstances that are completely out of their control."

The Pork Council and its members met with federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, senior officials from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as well as federal Members of Parliament and many of their provincial counterparts over the past few weeks to discuss what we will need to survive as an industry.

"While helpful, the time has come for action to help Canada's hog producers and their families. Producers need to make important financial decisions *now* regarding their future," said Schlegel. "They need to know to what extent they will be able to count on their governments to help them transition through this extremely difficult period."

The Canadian Pork Council is asking the government to make improvements to the current Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program and for a short-term loan for producers, as well as an immediate advance against future CAIS payments.

"The federal and provincial governments need to act immediately to provide our producers with the tools needed to weather this storm, and continue to contribute to our communities and the Canadian economy," he said.

Canada's 11,000 hog producers raise nearly 31 million hogs a year. Of that, more than 50% is exported, principally to the United States and Japan.

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