Canadian Pork Industry Statement on the Signing of Canada- EU Trade Agreement

October 30, 2016 (Ottawa, ON) – Canadian Pork producers welcome the signing of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President of the European Council Donald Tusk signed the CETA deal in an official ceremony today in Brussels.

"Canada is a globally competitive producer and exporter of pork and pork products. We have worked hard to develop a global reputation as a reliable supplier of safe, wholesome, high-quality pork. The key to sustaining our success, however, is the ability to access a wide variety of markets," stated Canadian Pork Council Chair Rick Bergmann.

This agreement will secure tariff free access for processed pork products and will acquire a quota volume equivalent to 80 thousand tonnes of pork cuts after a phased in period of five years.

"The Canadian and EU markets for pork complement each other and while this relationship holds great promise, we look forward to the government officials resolving the outstanding technical barriers that limit our ability to capitalize on what was achieved," added Bergmann.

The pork industry plays an important role within Canada's agriculture and agri -food sector. Canadian pork production amounts to close 2 million tonnes per year and over two-thirds of this is exported. In 2015, over 1.1 million tonnes of pork, valued at C$3.4 billion was exported to over 100 different countries. Canada is the third largest pork exporting country in terms of both value and volume and represents 20% of the world pork trade.

The CPC serves as the national voice for hog producers in Canada. A federation of nine provincial pork industry associations, our organization's purpose is to play a leadership role in achieving and maintaining a dynamic and prosperous Canadian pork sector.

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