



Canadian Pork Council
Conseil canadien du porc

November 3, 2021

Via email: marie-claude.bibeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Minister Bibeau:

On behalf of Canada's 7,000 pork producers, farm families who work hard every day to care for over 28 million animals on farms from coast to coast, I want to congratulate you on your reappointment as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. I have valued the relationship we have developed, your commitment to understanding pork producers' challenges, and your desire to find solutions and unlock opportunities.

The Prime Minister has trusted you to continue with this incredible responsibility during a uniquely challenging time in our history. The last several years have been particularly challenging for pork producers. Supply chain disruptions that started in the early days of the pandemic have continued to impact producers across the country. Producers in Western Canada have struggled with feed shortages, or cost increases, due to the drought. Exports continue to be challenged by barriers, including in China and the EU. All along the supply chain, the lack of labour limits our ability to achieve our full potential.

The greatest risk producers face is from African Swine Fever. If detected in Canada, ASF would devastate the entire value chain and the \$23.8 billion contribution to Canada's GDP. Therefore, we need to work together to better prevent, prepare and respond to the eventuality that an African Swine Fever outbreak would occur in Canada.

While these challenges are significant, the opportunities that lie ahead are even more substantial. Canadian pork producers have one of the smallest environmental footprints globally, and we are doing more to increase our sustainability. Our diversified exports mean that we can meet the growing demand for high-quality, sustainable, nutritious protein. Food security is a global challenge and promoting free and fair trade will help ensure Canadian pork can feed families in Canada and around the world. Finally,

with the support of governments, producers are investing in research and innovation to help reduce our footprint, improve our profitability, and position us for even greater success.

Canada's pork producers look forward to continuing to work with you to increase our sector's resiliency and advance our contributions to Canada's environmental, economic and social sustainability. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you soon to continue our vital work together. CPC staff will follow up with your office on this request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Bergmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Rick Bergmann
Chair