

April 5, 2020



Dear Pork Producers,

I wanted to reach out to you as Chair of the Canadian Pork Council.

We are in very unprecedented times. The uncertainty of COVID-19 will be with us for some time, and I understand the impact this is having on you. I want to assure you that the council's Board of Directors and our national team is fully engaged with industry and government leaders, and is advocating for the necessary measures required to alleviate the pressures we are all feeling.

We are closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on slaughter rates at processing plants and are also very aware of shipping restrictions in some areas of our Country. Your farms, and mine are all feeling the financial pressures Covid is bringing. If that's not enough, staying healthy, continued biosecurity focus, labour, transportation, and the availability of the products we need on a day-to-day basis also adds to the pile of concerns.

The team at CPC understands the critical nature of these concerns and is working directly with processors, and officials including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to find ways to ensure plants continue to operate. These efforts are being strengthened by the efforts of the staff in your provincial pork organizations.

You can trust that all of us are impressing upon the government the need for better programming that will help pork producers in these very difficult times.

Agriculture is foundational for our economy and life itself. You are all part of the solution.

Finally, I sincerely hope that you and your family are keeping well and healthy. Should you need help, I would encourage you to reach out. Your provincial pork offices are well positioned to direct you to the resources available in your province.



Rick Bergmann
CPC Chair and Manitoba Pork Producer