



## **CAFTA CONFIRMS WTO AS AGRI-FOOD'S 2011 TRADE PRIORITY**

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**Ottawa, October 27, 2010** – The Canadian Agri-food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) encourages the Canadian government to press for a resolution of the WTO Doha round trade negotiations in 2011.

CAFTA members were in Ottawa October 21, 2010 for the organization's Annual General Meeting and to monitor the fifth round of negotiations towards a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union.

At its Annual General Meeting, CAFTA confirmed the WTO is its priority for the coming year. "The WTO should remain Canada's top trade priority through 2011," says CAFTA President Stan Eby. "With the right political will, we could make real progress and conclude the WTO Doha negotiations next year. We encourage Prime Minister Harper to make this Canada's top trade priority and to press for the WTO's resolution when he meets with his counterparts at the G20 Summit in Seoul, Korea next month."

CAFTA also reconfirmed its commitment to a robust trade deal with the European Union. "The Canada-EU CETA could be the most comprehensive trade deal Canada has ever negotiated and could increase agri-food trade by up to \$3 billion a year," says CAFTA Executive Director Kathleen Sullivan. "Our federal and provincial negotiators are making substantial progress on the CETA and we encourage them to continue pressing for an ambitious agriculture package."

At CAFTA's Annual General Meeting members also confirmed the appointments of President Stan Eby, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Vice President Rick White, Canadian Canola Growers Association, and Treasurer Richard Phillips, Grain Growers of Canada, for the second year of their 2 year terms.

"I look forward to working with CAFTA's members and Board of Directors for another year," says Eby. "Canada is the fourth largest agri-food exporter in the world and our farmers and food processors rely on trade. We commend the Canadian government for its focus on trade and thank Minister Ritz for his efforts in the past year to address market access issues around the world."

CAFTA plays an important role in promoting the trade priorities of Canada's agri-food sectors. CAFTA is a coalition of national and regional organizations which support a more open and fair international trading environment for agriculture and agri-food. CAFTA's members include producer organizations, processors, marketers and exporters from the major trade dependent sectors in Canada including beef, pork, grains, and oilseeds. Together, these sectors produce almost 80 per cent of Canada's agriculture and agri-food exports, conduct about \$40 billion in business annually and directly employ close to 500,000 Canadians.

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For more information on CAFTA, visit [www.cafta.org](http://www.cafta.org)