

The Federal Government announced today that there has been a final agreement of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We have learned that the TPP gives additional market access to TPP member countries in an amount equal to 3.25% of Canada's 2016 milk production, which represents approximately 250 million litres of milk.

At the same time, the government has identified a number of new programs for dairy, poultry, and egg producers and processors that are intended to mitigate the impact of the TPP.

While SaskMilk, like all Canadian dairy farmers, were asking for and would have preferred no additional access be granted to foreign dairy, we are satisfied that this level of additional access was an acceptable outcome under the circumstances. We are also encouraged that the government programs announced will engage in enforcing border controls as well as protect producer income, quota, industry investments, and Canadian cheese standards. Overall, this seems to be a fair compensation package.

We understand that there may be increased opportunities for our fellow Saskatchewan farmers in the TPP, and we are pleased that they may see benefits from increased access to foreign markets.

SaskMilk thanks the Dairy Farmers of Canada, the producers, and the public for their support over these past few weeks.

Saskatchewan's dairy farmers will continue to work hard to proudly produce a safe, high-quality, nutritious product.