

STATEMENT ON USMCA

We are disappointed by the release this morning of the new USMCA. USMCA, replacing NAFTA, was negotiated on the backs, and at the expense of, Canadian dairy farmers. USMCA follows two previous trade agreements in which access to the Canadian dairy market was granted, CETA and the CPTPP, which sacrificed the equivalent of a quarter of a billion dollars annually in dairy production to industries in other countries. Additionally, changes to and eventual elimination of Class 7 is part of the agreement.

The 11,000 dairy farms in Canada work 365 days a year to provide Canadians with high-quality milk that is safe and nutritious. In Saskatchewan, the dairy sector provides 4800 jobs and contributes \$413 million to Saskatchewan's GDP. Dairy is not a small part of Canada's economy and the impact of this trade negotiation is a disappointing revelation that our government used the livelihoods of 220,000 Canadians to bargain with the United States.

Supply management is a system that works, and it has proven to work. Our federal government has yet again proven that their support for supply management is no more than a talking point. By not only increasing imports into Canada, limiting businesses' ability to export, and allowing another country to tell farmers that they cannot competitively price their product, the government has turned their backs on the people they serve. This is a loss for Canadian families, and a loss for the Canadian industry. Moving forward, we will attempt to support our sector in dealing with the repercussions of these mistakes by our government and continue to support our Saskatchewan dairy farmers and their families.