



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APAS Welcomes Significant Easing Tariffs in Canada-China Trade Agreement

REGINA, SK – The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) applauds the newly announced trade agreement between Canada and China, as detailed by Prime Minister Mark Carney, and underscores Premier Moe's pivotal role in championing Saskatchewan's interests. This agreement reduces tariffs on Canadian canola seed to 15% by March 1 and significantly benefits Saskatchewan's pea producers by opening markets and reducing trade barriers, ushering in increased opportunities for trade.

"Through this agreement, the resilience and dedication in our government-led negotiations were on full display," said Bill Prybylski, APAS President. "Producers of canola and peas have faced significant export barriers to China. We are grateful for the persistent efforts that culminated in this important breakthrough for the agricultural community."

Saskatchewan, a leading producer of peas, canola, and pork, plays a crucial role in Canada's exports in these sectors. The new trade agreement not only reopens the Chinese market for canola but also boosts prospects for peas. However, it is important to note that there is no mention of tariff reductions or market access improvements for canola oil, which currently faces a 100% tariff, or for pork products, which are subject to a 25% tariff. These omissions highlight continued challenges for key agricultural export products critical to Saskatchewan's economy.

"Securing access to markets such as China is vital for the sustainability and growth of Saskatchewan's agriculture producers," Prybylski noted. "This agreement, by substantially reducing trade barriers for some key products, enhances market access and contributes to greater economic stability within our sector. However, we continue to urge the government to address ongoing barriers for canola oil and pork exports to ensure all agricultural products can benefit from improved market access."

While recognizing the progress made in reopening and expanding the Chinese market, APAS emphasizes the importance of ongoing efforts to diversify export markets to safeguard Saskatchewan's agricultural sector against future trade uncertainties. "We celebrate today's success, but our commitment to broadening market diversification for all agricultural products remains firm," said Prybylski. "Our producers deserve stable, extensive market opportunities."

APAS continues its commitment to collaborating with federal and provincial governments to advocate for policies and agreements that support Saskatchewan's farmers and the broader agricultural industry, ensuring the continued prosperity and growth of this vital sector.

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