



May 5, 2021

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5

Dear Minister Bibeau:

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) supports the creation of a Canadian “Grocery Code of Conduct” to restore balance and fairness to the relationship between grocery retailers and their suppliers.

Consolidation in Canada’s grocery retail sector has resulted in just five grocery retailers controlling over 80% of Canada’s grocery retail market. This imbalance has allowed large grocery retailers to push their costs onto food manufacturers and farmers. These unfair business practices have remained unchecked due to their power over suppliers, and they are weakening Canada’s food supply chain.

When manufacturers and farmers are forced to pay the bills of large grocery retail companies, they struggle to pay their own bills and must cut back on investing in equipment and facilities, innovating new products, and creating jobs. Food becomes more expensive, and consumers have fewer product choices.

The unfair practices of Canada’s five grocery giants threaten our country’s food production and supply chains, hurt farmers and consumers, and jeopardize economic growth and jobs – fixing this situation is critically important.

In late 2020, the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture created a joint working group to address imbalances in the Canadian food supply chain and APAS supports their ongoing work to create a draft Grocery Code of Conduct. The UK’s Grocery Supply Code of Practice has been very successful, so that could provide a template to design a similar Code for Canada.

Thank you for your ongoing work on this issue and please contact APAS if we can provide further support toward the creation of a Canadian Grocery Code of Conduct.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Lewis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Lewis
President, APAS



May 5, 2021

The Honourable David Marit, Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Room 334, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Marit:

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