



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

---

PETITION No.: **421-02076**

BY: **MR. DUSSEAULT (SHERBROOKE)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 14, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE LAWRENCE MACAULAY, PC, MP**

---

Response by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

---

SUBJECT

**Dairy products**

---

**ORIGINAL TEXT**

---

**REPLY**

The Government of Canada recognizes Canadian dairy goat and sheep farms' contributions to the Canadian economy as well as to maintaining the fabric of many rural communities. The Government is committed to further supporting the industry as it strives to become more profitable and sustainable, and as it works to grow production to meet the demand for goat and sheep dairy products in Canada.

The Government understands Canadian goat and sheep cheese processors' concerns, as they may face increased competition from European cheese in the coming years. We are committed to working with them so they may more fully supply the domestic demand for sheep and goat cheese, and, in so doing, increase domestic goat and sheep milk production.

One key example of the Government's commitment is its support to develop a more competitive cheese processing industry, including goat and sheep cheese. Goat and sheep cheese processors are eligible to apply for funding under the Dairy Processing Investment Fund. This \$100-million program has been launched to assist processors to modernize their operations to increase their productivity and efficiency or diversify their product range to capitalize on new market opportunities. The Fund will allow goat and sheep cheese processors to improve productivity and reduce costs, which helps sustain demand for their products as well as the sheep and goat milk used as inputs. The program provides non-

repayable contributions to existing dairy processors through two types of projects: capital investment in equipment and infrastructure and access to expertise to engage private sector technical, managerial, and business expertise. Applications to the Dairy Processing Investment Fund are under review, and projects under this program will be announced shortly.

The dairy goat and sheep sectors are also eligible to apply for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's suite of programs aimed at facilitating market development, innovation, and business risk management. For example, under Going Forward 2, the current agricultural policy framework, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provided \$333,000 in support to goat producers through the Canadian National Goat Federation's Goat Traceability and Identification Project. The initiative aims to improve competitiveness and provide the means to increase market share in domestic and international markets by creating confidence in the attributes of Canadian products.

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership, coming into force on April 1, 2018, will have a suite of programs and services to respond to existing and emerging priorities of the sector including sustainable growth, innovation and competitiveness. These programs will be available to the dairy goat and sheep industries.

The Government of Canada recognises the hard work and commitment of the dairy goat and sheep producers. We are committed to working together to support the dairy goat and sheep sectors to become more profitable and sustainable.