



June 4, 2021

Standing Committee of International Trade
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

RE: Canola Council of Canada and Canadian Canola Growers Association Joint Submission on Bill C-216, An Act to amend the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act (supply management)

Dear Parliamentarians:

On behalf of Canada's 43,000 canola growers and the entire canola supply chain we are writing to urge committee members to not support Bill C-216, which we understand is under review by the committee. Bill C-216 would dramatically and permanently undermine Canada's strategic trade interests both in the short term, as our economy strives to recover from the global pandemic, and in the long-term as the agricultural sector continues its role as a national economic driver as documented by the 2017 Advisory Council for Growth Report and the Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table's target of \$85 billion annually in exports by 2025.

Over 90% of canola produced in Canada is exported. Canada's suite of trade agreements has benefited the entire canola value-chain and the Canadian economy by reducing tariffs, confirming the predictability of the terms of trade and by establishing mechanisms to effectively address trade disputes. Canada's access to the US market throughout the 26 years of the North American Free Trade Agreement has resulted in canola oil becoming the second-most-used oil in the United States. Robust and comprehensive trade agreements underpin the Canadian industry's ability to confidently promote and market canola seed, oil and meal globally. As a result, Canadian production of canola has grown from five million metric tonnes in the nineties to between 18 and 20 million metric tonnes in recent years. Canola is now the number one farm cash receipts and Canada's most valuable field crop.

Bill C-216's proposed addition of text under a new title, "Supply management (2.1)" to follow "Powers, duties and functions of Minister" Section 10 (2) to the *Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act Section 10 (2)*, would, in effect, selectively negate and fetter the Minister's direction in Section 10 (2) to, "(c) conduct and manage international negotiations as they relate to Canada" and "(e) foster the expansion of Canada's international trade and commerce."

The change proposed by Bill C-216 would tie the hands of Canada's trade negotiators upfront in bi-lateral and multi-national discussions and creates a dangerous precedent. Further, it would invite other nations to impose legislated limits on their scope of negotiations or future free trade partners to seek exclusions before negotiations begin. As a trade and market access dependent agricultural producer this would be highly detrimental to Canada and the competitiveness of its agriculture sector.

We support the submission of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance and the details articulated in its Addendum and ask that you oppose its adoption in order to preserve Canada's ability to negotiate robust comprehensive trade agreements to help secure Canada's long-term economic success with the broad national interest in mind.

The Canola Council of Canada and the Canadian Canola Growers Association together represent the interests of all links in the value chain including Canada's 43,000 canola growers, life science companies, grain handling companies, exporters and processors, and other industry participants. The canola industry now generates over \$29 billion annually in economic activity in Canada and over 200,000 jobs in production, transportation, processing, refining and food development, manufacturing and service.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for more details to inform CITT's deliberations on Bill C-216.

Regards,



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