

**Standing Committee on Agriculture  
and Agri-Food**



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

**Comité permanent de l'agriculture et  
de l'agroalimentaire**

June 20, 2017

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
1341, Baseline Road Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0C5

Dear Mr. MacAulay:

On June 15, 2017, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food held a public meeting with officials from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and representatives of the pork industry to discuss the porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) situation in Canada. The recent outbreak of new cases of PED in Manitoba is worrying a number of pork industry stakeholders, as the emergence and re-emergence of PED could have a major impact on the industry, affecting both domestic and foreign sales.

Although PED poses no risk to human health or to food safety it is an infectious disease, which means it is important to wash and disinfect anything that has come in contact with an infected animal. Pork farmers in Manitoba believe major contributors to the outbreak are trucks returning from the United States.

Following confirmation of the cases in Manitoba, the province's pork industry quickly increased monitoring and testing for the virus. The industry also made further efforts to thoroughly wash and disinfect hog barns. As for the shipping companies, they put a great deal of work into planning their itineraries to minimize contact with contaminated sites, expanded their washing facilities and quarantined equipment that travels to areas at high risk of contamination. However, the CFIA noted that, for now, there is no confirmed link between the cases of PED in Manitoba and the trucks. The investigation into the source of the PED outbreak is ongoing.

When the first case of PED in Canada was detected in 2014, the CFIA implemented an emergency protocol for shipping livestock that enabled trucks returning from the United States to be washed in certified facilities in Canada rather than in the United States. However, the CFIA changed this protocol and, since May 2016, has required trucks to be washed in the United States before entering Canada. However, farmers in Manitoba doubt that the American washing protocol is as rigorous as Canada's. In addition, American facilities recycle their water, which may contaminate the trucks and therefore compromise the Canadian herd. Trucks returning from the United States are often washed a second time in Canadian facilities, at industry expense, to ensure they do not spread disease.

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The Canadian pork industry would like the government to:

- Support its proposal to implement a “trusted trucker program,” similar to the measure implemented by the CFIA in 2014.
- Reinstating the truck-washing protocol initially established in 2014.
- Provide it with financial support to cover costs related to the PED outbreak in Manitoba.

In this regard, the Committee is supporting your instructions urging the CFIA to review its truck-washing protocol to ensure that Canada has effective transportation policies in place to protect its herd. Committee members believe more needs to be done to stop the spread of disease.

Biosecurity is a top priority for all industry stakeholders. The goal is to prevent the introduction and spread of PED in the Canadian hog herd. The Committee hopes you will consider the industry’s concerns and provide the Chair with a response on the steps that have been taken to address the recommendations outlined in this letter by June 30, 2017.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrice Finnigan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrice Finnigan, MP Chair, Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food