



## PRESS RELEASE

### Canadian Produce Marketing Association honours 2018 Produce Champions

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Produce Marketing Association is proud to recognize its 2018 Produce Champions: Members of Parliament Pat Finnigan, Ruth Ellen Brosseau and Bev Shipley. The CPMA’s annual Produce Champion award is given to one or more Member(s) of Parliament and/or Senator(s) who have been supportive of the produce industry and effective at bringing industry issues to the forefront on Parliament Hill.

The 2018 Produce Champions received their awards at separate celebrations in each of their ridings, hosted by the CPMA, which featured live culinary demonstrations by CPMA *Half Your Plate* Ambassador Chef Michael Smith.

“Our 2018 Produce Champions have all shown incredible support for the fresh fruit and vegetable industry in their community and across Canada,” said CPMA President Ron Lemaire. “We are truly grateful for their engagement to foster the growth of our sector and we look forward to continuing working closely with them and their colleagues in Ottawa.”

“I am truly humbled and honoured by this recognition both as Member of Parliament for Miramichi-Grand Lake and as a local producer of over 40 years,” said MP Finnigan. “This award makes me feel that I have contributed in a small way in making Canadians aware of the enormous role that our local fruit and vegetable growers play in ensuring the health and wellness of families from coast to coast to coast as well as the huge economic impact that the industry generates.”

“Being named a Produce Champion is one of the highest honours to receive as a Member of Parliament. It’s easy to be a champion for an industry that grows quality products and upholds the highest production and workplace standards,” said MP Shipley. “Canadian produce is recognized as some of the best there is on world markets. I am proud to work with, advocate for and support our Canadian horticultural producers and marketers in continuing to provide quality fruits and vegetables from the farm to our plates. Thank you to all members of the horticulture industry for what you contribute to the Canadian economy, to our communities, and to healthy living.”

The CPMA congratulates its 2018 Produce Champions and is eager to progress relations with them and all MPs and Senators moving forward.

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**About the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA):**

Based in Ottawa, Ontario, CPMA is a not-for-profit organization that represents a diverse membership made of up of every segment of the produce industry supply chain who are responsible for 90% of the fresh fruit and vegetable sales in Canada. CPMA is fortunate to represent a sector that is both a significant economic driver for communities and that also improves the health and productivity of Canadians.