



December 8, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable John J. Horgan, M.L.A.
Premier of the Province of British Columbia
premier@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Scott Moe, M.L.A.
Premier of the Province of Saskatchewan
premier@gov.sk.ca

The Honourable Douglas R. Ford, M.P.P.
Premier of the Province of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Blaine M. Higgs, M.L.A.
Premier of the Province of New Brunswick
premier@gnb.ca

The Honourable Dennis King, M.L.A.
Premier of the Province of Prince Edward Island
premier@gov.pe.ca

The Honourable Jason T. Kenney, M.L.A.
Premier of the Province of Alberta
premier@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Brian W. Pallister, M.L.A.
Premier of the Province of Manitoba
premier@leg.gov.mb.ca

The Honourable François Legault, M.N.A.
Premier of the Province of Québec
premierministre@quebec.ca

The Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier of the Province of Nova Scotia
premier@novascotia.ca

The Honourable Andrew J. Furey, M.H.A.
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
premier@gov.nl.ca

Dear Prime Minister and Premiers,

We commend the Government of Canada and provincial governments for the time and dedication provided to protecting public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Like all Canadians, we are thankful for the development of multiple new vaccines that soon may be approved and available to protect public health.

As companies and associations representing food and agricultural production, we take seriously the responsibility to protect the health of our food producers and essential food workers so that we may continue feeding our country and those around the world. Our labour force, however,

continues to ebb and flow as employees become infected. A single infected employee necessitates that we quarantine additional employees with whom he or she may have been in contact. This leaves critical positions unfilled, overworking existing employees, decreasing production and threatening to shut down processing facilities. This situation is already creating disruptions to food production and could lead to shortages in the food supply chain. Farmers and processors also rely on temporary foreign workers to fulfill their labour needs and with planting season a few months away, access to these workers will be critical to a successful planting season.

As companies and associations representing food and agricultural production, we take seriously the responsibility to protect the health of our food producers and essential food workers so that we may continue feeding our country and those around the world. Our labour force, however, continues to ebb and flow as employees become infected. A single infected employee necessitates that we quarantine additional employees with whom he or she may have been in contact. This leaves critical positions unfilled, overworking existing employees, decreasing production and threatening to shut down processing facilities. In some cases this situation is already creating disruptions to food production and could lead to shortages in the food supply chain. Farmers and processors, particularly in some sectors, also rely on temporary foreign workers to fulfill their labour needs and with planting season a few months away access to these workers will be critical to a successful planting season.

We fully appreciate and support that our first responders, medical professionals, elderly and care providers, along with other vulnerable individuals clearly have the highest priority for vaccination. However, as you move beyond these highest priority groups, the undersigned organizations ask that front line food and agriculture employees, including temporary foreign workers, be included in the next highest priority for the vaccine within any federal and provincial COVID-19 Vaccination Plans. This request is consistent with the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's preliminary guidance on key populations for early COVID-19 immunization. We concur with these recommendations from our nation's top scientists and experts on infectious diseases.

We thank you for your consideration and stand ready to work with all levels of government to protect our workers and continue to provide safe, abundant, affordable and nutritious food to all Canadians.

Respectfully,



Timothy Kennedy
President
Canadian Aquaculture
Industry Alliance



Mary Robinson
President
Canadian Federation of
Agriculture



Rebecca Lee
Executive Director
Canadian Horticultural
Council



Chris White
President & CEO
Canadian Meat Council



Rick Bergman
Chair
Canadian Pork Council



Ron Lemaire
President
Canadian Produce Marketing
Association



Bob Lowe
President
Canadian Cattlemen's
Association



Jim Everson
President
Canola Council of Canada



Bryce Eger
President
Corteva



Garth Whyte
President & CEO
Fertilizer Canada



Paul Lansbergen, CAE
President
Fisheries Council of Canada



Michael Graydon
Chief Executive Officer
Food, Health & Consumer
Products of Canada



Ernie Sirski
Chair
Soy Canada

cc: The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P., Minister of Health
The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P., Minister of Fisheries & Oceans and the
Canadian Coast Guard
Ian Shugart, Clerk of the Privy Council