



Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport

Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

Honourable Mary Ng
Minister of International Trade, Export
Promotion, Small Business and Economic
Development

Honourable Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Employment, Workforce
Development and Disability Inclusion

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food

Honourable Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Labour

February 1, 2022

Dear Ministers,

On behalf of Canada's fresh fruit and vegetable industry, we are writing to express our appreciation for the government's hosting of yesterday's National Supply Chain Summit. We are hopeful that the Summit will serve as the starting point for effective cross-governmental collaboration to address the interconnected, ongoing supply chain disruptions having a significant impact on the fresh produce sector.

We also welcome the announcement yesterday that the Government of Canada will create a new Supply Chain Task Force to consult with industry and other key stakeholders to make recommendations on short and long-term actions to mitigate the impact of ongoing supply chain disruptions. We cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of a whole-of-government approach to be able to recognize, understand and address the multi-faceted challenges at hand.

Since last fall, CPMA has been working with industry partners to call for the naming of a Supply Chain Commissioner to lead a Joint Industry-Government Task Force to address the significant impacts of supply chain disruptions. In November, CPMA and other organizations from across the North American produce industry released a [joint statement detailing ongoing supply chain disruptions](#) facing the sector, including: crippling port congestion, delays and exploding costs in container shipping, cascading effects of inconsistent product delivery, continuing labour shortages, growing input shortages and stockpiling of consumer products. Earlier this month, CPMA's North American Trade Working Group released a [Supply Chain Solutions proposal](#), which outlined several potential areas of government action.

In the United States, the Biden Administration has been actively engaged in efforts to address these issues, including through the appointment of John Porcari as Port Envoy to the White House's Supply Chain Task Force. As a smaller market reliant upon trade, it is imperative for the federal government to demonstrate similar leadership in these discussions to ensure Canada's needs and interests are represented and that there is not an economic incentive for companies to redirect their business elsewhere.

We have enclosed with this letter further input and recommendations for government action prepared in response to the Summit discussion questions posed by Transport Canada. We are hopeful that CPMA can be an active participant in the newly formed Supply Chain Task Force and that this information can provide important context to support and inform the process, enable solutions to our supply chain disruptions in the short-term and support supply chain resiliency in the long-term.

We thank you for your attention to these important issues and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to Task Force efforts to ensure the specific needs of the perishable fresh produce sector are taken into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Ron Lemaire', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron Lemaire
President
Canadian Produce Marketing Association