

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

JUL 29 2019

Quote: 252052

Mr. Gunter Jochum
President
Western Canadian Wheat Growers
74-3553 31st Street NW
Calgary AB T2L 2K7

Dear Mr. Jochum:

Thank you for your correspondence outlining your views regarding the impact that non-tariff measures have had on Canadian producers and how our government has responded. I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting the agricultural sector in exporting goods to markets worldwide. I will continue to promote the high quality and safety of our Canadian grains across the globe and strive to ensure that international trade-based rules are followed. Science remains at the cornerstone of our international trade; however, we are observing a global rise in protectionist measures.

I note your concerns about the severe decline in durum wheat exports to the Italian market. I would like to assure you that the federal government takes this issue very seriously. We have been raising our concerns with the Government of Italy and the European Commission at every opportunity, including at the ministerial level and at the World Trade Organization.

Regarding the diplomatic situation in Saudi Arabia, the Government of Canada remains concerned about the measures that the Government of Saudi Arabia has taken against Canada since August 2018, as well as the impact of those measures on Canadian citizens and companies. Canada continues its efforts to normalize its relationship with Saudi Arabia. Our government will always support Canadian workers and industries and defend their interests at home and abroad.

The Government of Canada understands that maintaining and expanding access to fast-growing markets like China is critical to the success and development of the Canadian agricultural sector and the Canadian economy. Therefore, the Government recognizes the importance of Canada's canola industry and is committed to working on market access conditions for Canadian canola to China in close collaboration with federal and provincial government departments, industry, and Canadian farmers.

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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is taking concrete steps, including the establishment of the Government–Industry Canola Working Group, to support the sector and to develop and coordinate strategies on the market access issue with China and market diversification. I have also engaged my counterparts from the Prairie provinces and consulted with Western Canadian stakeholders.

The Government of Canada is committed to addressing market access issues and will continue to work with stakeholders to explore all potential options and develop strategies to resolve them.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Bibeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, PC, MP