



KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

November 3, 2025

Global Affairs Canada

CUSMA-Consultations-ACEUM@international.gc.ca

Consultation on the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, providing a unified voice for farmers on issues that affect agriculture. KAP represents and promotes the interests of all Manitoba farmers and 20 commodity associations. Producers in Manitoba rely heavily on international trade to have their commodity marketed: producers exported \$100.3 billion in agriculture and agri-food products in 2024, of which \$9.39 billion came from Manitoba. And 34,385 Manitoba jobs tie directly to the sector. Many agricultural exports end in United States or Mexico, underscoring the need for a continued tri-national trade agreement.

Canada's prosperity and success ties directly to trade. Trade improves our standard of living, advances innovation, and ensures food remains affordable and healthful. Predictable trade conditions and transparent regulations allow producers to make long-term investment decisions with confidence. As the CUSMA review approaches, the Government of Canada must recognize the important role agriculture plays in the Canadian economy and the need for a timely renewal of CUSMA. Given CUSMA's importance to Canadian agriculture, KAP is pleased to provide recommendations for government to consider during the CUSMA review.

Maintain and Strengthen the Rules-Based System

- Maintain the existing rules-based framework;
- Address non-tariff trade barriers through the Regulatory Cooperation Council;
- Ensure that sanitary and phytosanitary measures remain science based. The measures must be applied in a clear, predictable, non-discriminatory way, and
- Maintain a functional and impartial dispute resolution process.

Improve Regulatory and Administrative Efficiency

- Review all customs documentation and look for ways to standardize forms;
- Reduce duplication and redundant approvals by adopting mutual recognition agreements (e.g., livestock inspection);
- Create a single digital window for permitting processes;
- Implement full electronic phytosanitary certification;
- Create an effective mechanism that ensures unwarranted trade barriers are addressed quickly, and
- Review articles to ensure they are evidence based and limit unneeded redundancies.

Modernize Border Infrastructure and Technology

- Implement RFID scanners at all border crossings;
- Expand the Free and Secure Trade Program at additional border crossings;
- Further implement AI and blockchain verification to further expedite compliance procedures;
- Expand the service hours for veterinarian inspection, and
- Continue to improve the import and export processes that emphasize automation.

Market Access and Fair-Trading Practices

- Enhance anti-dumping cooperation and traceability to prevent transshipping and underpricing;
- Address the extra-territorial impact of local trade barriers that affect the movement of goods between countries (e.g., California's Proposition 12);
- Continue to allow parties to set phytosanitary measures that follow WTO rights and obligations while protecting food safety and animal health, and
- Increase competitive market opportunities for agricultural goods while respecting the needs of supply management.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide feedback for the CUSMA consultation. If you have any questions about this submission, please contact KAP policy manger, Neil Van Overloop, at neil.vanoverloop@kap.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Hornby', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Colin Hornby
General Manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.