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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Manitoba Beef Producers Welcomes Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement

WINNIPEG – Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) welcomes the announcement of a successful Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

“MBP applauds the successful conclusion of the free trade negotiations with South Korea,” said Heinz Reimer, MBP president. “Beef producers welcome the opportunities presented by this free trade agreement and we appreciate renewed access to compete in this important export market.”

Before BSE in 2003, Korea was Canada's fourth largest export market for beef at a value of \$40 million. Canadian beef exports to Korea only resumed in 2012 after Korea lifted its BSE prohibition. A tariff on fresh and frozen beef has prevented Canada from fully accessing the Korean market and Canada has also experienced a tariff disadvantage relative to U.S. beef.

Under the agreement, Korea's 40 per cent tariff on fresh and frozen beef will be fully eliminated in 15 equal annual steps. As well, the 18 per cent tariff on offals will be fully eliminated in 11 equal annual steps.

“MBP congratulates the Government of Canada on the successful conclusion of this process,” said Reimer. “We thank Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; and Hon. Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade, for their steadfast support of our industry.”

The free trade agreement with Korea will help maximize the value of each beef cut and return those dollars to Manitoba beef producers and put Canadian beef in a more competitive position.

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Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba. Our role and mission is to represent our beef producers through communication, research, advocacy and education. Manitoba Beef Producers represents 8,000 beef producers across the province.

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