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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Manitoba Beef Producers Welcomes Canada/EU Trade Deal

WINNIPEG – Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) welcomes the successful conclusion of an agreement in principle on the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union (EU).

“MBP applauds the successful conclusion of the CETA negotiations,” said Trevor Atchison, MBP president. “We estimate that this agreement offers more than \$600 million in potential benefit to the Canadian beef sector. Over and above these concrete fiscal benefits, the agreement includes a process to resolve significant non-tariff trade barriers. This process could benefit our industry almost as much as the elimination of tariff barriers.”

The CETA agreement includes provisions for tariff-free access for 64,950 tonnes of fresh and frozen beef under three new categories. The agreement also offers tariff-free entry for all live cattle, genetics, any byproducts including most offal, tallow and rendered products, processed beef products, hides and skins.

“MBP congratulates the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments on the successful conclusion of this four year process,” said Atchison. “We especially want to thank Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and Hon. Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade, for their steadfast support of our industry.”

These negotiations were unique because of the active involvement of the provinces and territories. MBP also thanks the Government of Manitoba for its support of this agreement and its support for increased market access for our beef products. MBP acknowledges the work and support of Hon. Peter Bjornson, Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade, and Hon. Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, for their efforts on our behalf.

“Without trade, the beef sector in Manitoba will wither. We have seen this in the past during the BSE crisis and it is being demonstrated today through the U.S. trade barrier known as country-of-origin labeling,” said Atchison. “Producers welcome the new opportunities presented by CETA and we appreciate the opportunities for diversifying our export markets.”

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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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