

# **Canada - Mexico Bilateral Working Group Joint Statement**

## **Growing Trade between Canadian Provinces and Mexican States**

Delegates from Canada and Mexico recognized the importance of trade between the two countries, and focused their attention on creating a trade environment that promotes increased trade between Canadian provinces and Mexican states. Delegates promoted regional events and discussed mechanisms of engagement within and beyond the Tri-National Accord.

Delegates also emphasized the importance of recent moves by the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Southern Railway to increase rail connectivity between Canada, the United States (U.S.) and Mexico. Delegates agreed to monitor these connections to ensure that the expected benefits are realized.

Canadian and Mexican delegates acknowledged the trade benefits of the Canada-Mexico Organic Equivalency Agreement that recognizes our two national organic systems as equivalent.

#### **Proposition 12 and United States Labelling Issues**

Delegates from Canada and Mexico discussed their concerns over increased trade barriers implemented and proposed in the U.S. Delegates identified California's Proposition 12 and the U.S. proposed voluntary "Product of USA" labelling regulations as their main concerns. Delegates agreed to continue to push for the lowering of trade barriers and agreed to monitor the impact of Proposition 12, as well as development of the voluntary "Product of USA" regulation. Delegates agreed to draft a joint letter expressing concerns about the implications of California's Proposition 12 on our integrated North American supply chains.

## **Innovation in Agriculture**

Innovation in agriculture is important as Mexico and Canada seek to feed growing populations and address food security challenges. Mexican states and Canadian provinces recognized the importance of capturing value from technology and innovation to improve sustainability, competitiveness, productivity, and drive economic growth in the agriculture sector. Delegates from Canada and Mexico agreed to monitor developments of the T-MEC/CUMSA dispute settlement consultations for agriculture. Delegates look forward to a resolution that benefits all parties.

## **Underrepresented Groups in Agriculture**

Delegates from Canada and Mexico recognized the importance of inclusion in agriculture, and discussed programs and initiatives to draw underrepresented groups, such as Indigenous populations, women, and young people, to the agriculture industry. Delegates pledged to work together on initiatives, such as economic and strategic projects for community development to make agriculture more inclusive and respectful. Delegates will explore the potential for a virtual webinar or a Working Group to promote inclusion of underrepresented groups in agriculture, and aim to increase representation of Indigenous populations, women, and young people over the next five years.