



**Agriculture**  
**Office of the Minister**

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May 20, 2015

The Honourable Gerry Ritz  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Tower 7, 9th Floor, Suite 149  
1341 Baseline Road  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Dear Minister Ritz:

I am concerned about the outcome of the current trade talks between the countries involved in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). While I support the objective of increased market access for goods and services that will benefit the Country, I want to make sure that you understand the position of the Nova Scotia government.

As stated by my colleagues, Ministers Paradis and Leal in a letter to you dated May 4, 2015, I too believe that Canada must stand firm in making beneficial choices, no matter how difficult during these negotiations.

While I am aware there are many aspects of this deal being discussed, I want to speak specifically to the issues of the supply managed sector. Supply managed industries in Nova Scotia are critical to Nova Scotia agriculture and the province as a whole. These industries produce an annual farm gate value of \$267 million and support more than 800 direct producer jobs. Supply management is critical to protect jobs and the economy of my Province.

The benefits of supply management, the egg, dairy, broiler chicken and turkey industry in Nova Scotia, is positive for both producers and consumers. The system of supply management ensures that consumers will always be able to find high-quality, safe Canadian dairy, eggs and poultry in their local supermarket.

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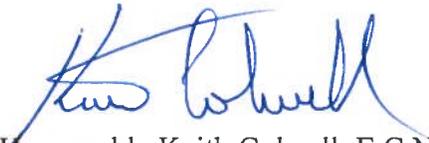
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Page 2

I request that you carefully consider the importance of supply management, specifically with regards to the negotiations of the TPP, and are firm in your support to these important Canadian industries.

The Nova Scotia government strongly supports maintaining the integrity of the supply management system and urge you to take a firm position to continue to support and maintain this important element of agriculture.

Yours sincerely,



Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.  
Minister of Agriculture

C: Honourable Pierre Paradis, Québec, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Honourable Jeff Leal, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs