



FERTILIZER CANADA

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March 18, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to first thank you for the continued efforts of your government to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Canada's fertilizer industry is doing everything possible to ensure farmers receive essential fertilizer products in time for spring seeding in April and May, while protecting employees and the public from COVID-19. We know that the situation remains fluid and rapidly changing, but as the government implements new policies it must acknowledge that fertilizer is essential to continued global food security.

Like many industries who rely on Canada's infrastructure system to deliver products, we have felt the impact from recent disruptions. However, we have done well in recovering and generally have normal supplies of fertilizer moving throughout the country. This movement must continue, allowing farmers to position product for spring seeding and ensure additional quantities are available for replenishment throughout the entire planting season.

The Canadian supply chain is resilient and can manage through these challenges. However, our industry would be concerned about any restrictive measures that may have unintended consequences on rail, port, and truck service, or imports and operations at agri-retail. Your government must ensure that the Canadian border remains open to the movement of critical goods, like fertilizer, in order for farmers to receive their product and meet their spring seeding requirements.

In addition, clarity for agricultural businesses on the Temporary Foreign Worker program will allow industry to appropriately manage its labour force and ensure continued operations. While we deal with the short-term impacts of the pandemic, Canadian agriculture will play a critical role in helping the world recuperate. Ensuring a successful planting season in the spring and good yields at harvest this fall will be critically important to Canada's economic recovery in 2020.

Sincerely,

Garth Whyte
President & CEO, Fertilizer Canada

cc The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport
The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable Filomena Tassi, P.C., M.P., Minister of Labour
The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, P.C., M.P., Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion