

October 20, 2004

The Hon. Andy Mitchell
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
9th Floor, Sir John Carling Building
930 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5

Dear Minister:

RE: CDC Consultative Committee

This is to congratulate you again on your appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The Dairy Processors Association of Canada / Association des Transformateurs Laitiers du Canada is the national association representing Canada's major dairy processors. I have attached a list of our members and Board designates for your information.

There is one important matter we want to bring to your attention and request you review with the Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC) and take action on immediately. The CDC Act requires that the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food appoint a Consultative Committee to advise the Commission. There has been no "Committee" for some time and indeed, a Report of the Office of the Auditor General in 2000 recommended the following:

"... it is our view that there are a number of specific questions that could be addressed by a re-constituted consultative committee in order to further strengthen the credibility of the pricing process."

*"The Commission should ask the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food as required in section 5 of the Canadian Dairy Commission Act, to appoint members to the consultation committee and ensure that they represent all stakeholder groups and interests." **

Dairy processors believe that it is timely this fall to formally reconstitute the "Committee". The CDC must take into account unprecedented considerations in its current annual review of support prices.

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DPAC/ATLC has communicated to the CDC Chairman its concerns with the current review, offered its assistance and recommended the "Committee" be re-appointed (see attached letter to the Chairman). In the past the Consultative Committee provided advice on support prices and other matters and this fall especially the CDC would benefit from the added input and assistance in explaining and defending its pricing decision when the announcement is made in December.

We trust this request is appropriate and representatives of our Board wish to meet with you at your earliest convenience to review the proposal further.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Don Jarvis
President and CEO

c.c. DPAC/ATLC Board
John Core, Chairman, CDC

* Office of the Auditor General, Special Examination Report, 10 May 2000