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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Ottawa, Ontario
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Thursday, June 7, 2018

Re: Comments on NBC's *Meet the Press*, June 3, 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

The Canadian dairy processing industry is troubled by the remarks made during your interview on NBC's *Meet the Press* on Sunday, June 3rd. Noting the possibility of conceding access to our domestic dairy market in order to conclude negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations goes against your previous stance of supporting a strong Canadian dairy sector.

We are steadfast in our belief that any outcome of a final NAFTA deal must contribute to the economic growth of both dairy farming and dairy processing. We are concerned that, at this point in the game, you have begun to talk about flexibility on dairy. We do not want a scenario where dairy becomes a bargaining chip in the negotiations.

The dairy processing industry is the second-largest food processing industry in Canada. It continues to be a success story, increasing its contribution to the Canadian economy by 10% since 2015. The conditions must continue to exist that allow for this kind of growth. We have reiterated to the government that Canada's objectives in negotiations must be to expand the dairy processing industry contributions to the Canadian economy.

We have said that, if the conditions were such that engagement on dairy was possible, any access offered to the United States or Mexico to the Canadian domestic market must be met by an equal net benefit to our sector. The Trump Administration's demands are absurd and most certainly do not allow for meaningful engagement; it is concerning to now hear that your government may have, in some way, entertained these demands.

We feel for our colleagues in the aluminum and steel industries, this is unfair targeting. We have stood behind your government and its decision to not give into the demands of President Trump, to get the best deal possible for Canadians. However, the closer we get to the end of negotiations, with no news on dairy, we start to worry that your statements on flexibility may not equal the strong stance Canadian Ministers and officials have publicly taken in defending the dairy sector.

The opportunity to discuss these issues and the repercussions to the Canadian dairy sector with you would be incredibly valuable. As such, we request a meeting with you and those members of your team responsible for NAFTA in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathieu Frigon". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Mathieu Frigon
Interim President & CEO
Dairy Processors Association of Canada