



CANADIAN SUPPLY CHAIN FOOD SAFETY COALITION

COALITION CANADIENNE DE LA FILIÈRE ALIMENTAIRE POUR LA SALUBRITÉ DES ALIMENTS

Press Release

Food Safety Modernization Initiative on Right Track

Ottawa – 7 June 2012: “The federal government’s initiative – Bill S-11, *the Safe Foods for Canadians Act* - to modernize Canada’s food safety legislation and regulations is a major step forward”, said Albert Chambers, Executive Director of the Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition.

“The Coalition is a long-time supporter of modernizing food safety legislation and regulations as a key element in the development of a national, co-ordinated and integrated approach to food safety,” he noted. “The proposals in Bill S-11 meet many of the food safety objectives of both industry and government; they complete initiatives identified by previous governments; and, they will position Canada’s food safety regime well in the rapidly changing global regulatory environment.”

“The Minister has indicated that there will be a major engagement with industry and other stakeholders as the new regulations under the new Act are developed; the Coalition is ready to participate”, Chambers said. “We believe this would also be an excellent time to initiate discussions on a new National Food Safety Strategy – a plan to guide the use of the new food safety toolkit that will be available when this Bill and the amendments to the *Food and Drugs Act* (C-38) are passed”.

Bill S-11 is designed to achieve a number of outcomes:

- the creation of a single Act to replace the various inspection Acts (i.e. Fish Inspection Act, Meat Inspection Act, Canada Agricultural Products Act, and the food provisions of the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act);
- the harmonization of enforcement powers; and,
- the establishment of new authorities to make regulations in areas long identified as critical to food safety and/or competitiveness, the authority to utilize incorporation by reference, new offences related to tampering and hoaxes, the introduction of monetary penalties, etc. .

“The Coalition and its member organizations will be reviewing the proposals carefully and look forward to the opportunity to participate in the parliamentary hearings on the Bill and to further consultations with government officials as the initiative proceeds”, stated Chambers.

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Background: The Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition was formed in December 2000 and incorporated in 2007 to act as “a single strong voice for Industry along the food chain, with the public and government on industry-wide food safety issues”. Its membership is composed of national, provincial and regional associations involved in the agri/aqua-food industry and of individual companies that provide services to the industry (see attached list). In 2012, the Coalition has 29 national associations as members, three (3) provincial or regional associations and six (6) companies as allied members. These organizations represent businesses at every link in the food supply chain from input suppliers through primary production, transportation, processing, manufacturing, distribution and importing to final marketers at export, retail and food service.

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