



CANADIAN SUPPLY CHAIN FOOD SAFETY COALITION

COALITION CANADIENNE DE LA FILIÈRE ALIMENTAIRE POUR LA SALUBRITÉ DES ALIMENTS

For Immediate Release

Safe Food for Canadians Act Regulations a positive step

Ottawa – 13 June 2018 – The publication this morning of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* regulations in the Canada Gazette Part II is a positive step in the modernization of Canada’s food safety regulatory regime, according to the Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition.

Since the industry-based Coalition was formed in December 2000, it has advocated updating and strengthening Canada’s food safety regulations. “We actively contributed to the drafting of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* and strongly supported its incorporation of an outcomes-based approach and its passage with the support of all parties in Parliament in November 2012”, said Albert Chambers, the Coalition’s executive director. “Since 2013, we, along with Coalition members and other stakeholders, have participated in CFIA meetings and consultations on the drafting of the regulations and recommended significant and detailed improvements to the various drafts to ensure that the regulations would meet industry’s and government’s expectations for rigour and practicality.”

Chambers noted that today’s publication incorporates many but not all those improvements. “However, we have a written commitment from the Minister of Health, the Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor M.P. P.C., that there will be further consultations on our recommendations for broadening the scope of the regulations to include the full supply chain and making other changes to ensure that Canada’s food safety requirements are world class.”

“Our members have reacted positively to the coming into force of the new regulations on 15 January 2019 and to the transition periods proposed for various segments of the supply chain”, Chambers stated. “Moreover, many food businesses, especially those exporting to the United States, who already need to meet the requirements of the US *Food Safety Modernization Act* for foreign suppliers, are definitely looking to the new licensing system becoming operational as quickly as possible.”

“The Coalition appreciates the work that officials at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and elsewhere in the government have put into this major initiative – it has not been easy to combine fourteen separate regulations into a new approach” stated Chambers. “Our members also know that there is more to be done to smoothly implement the changes within industry and by CFIA. This is uncharted territory for both food businesses and CFIA’s inspection staff. We are hopeful that the collaborative approach that led to this point will continue during the implementation phase.”

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 allied members that provide services to the industry. In 2018, its members include 23 national associations, one (1)

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provincial/regional association and three (3) allied members. These organizations represent food 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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