



**KEYSTONE  
AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCERS**  
1984 - 2024

October 18, 2024

Global Affairs Canada

[CUSMA-Consultations-ACEUM@international.gc.ca](mailto:CUSMA-Consultations-ACEUM@international.gc.ca)

### **Consultation on the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA)**

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, providing a unified voice for farmers on issues that affect agriculture. KAP represents and promotes the interests of all Manitoba farmers and 19 commodity associations. Producers in Manitoba rely heavily on international trade to have their commodity marketed: producers exported \$99.1 billion in agriculture and agri-food products in 2023, of which \$9.39 billion came from Manitoba. The majority of these agricultural exports end up in the United States, underscoring the importance of CUSMA for producers. Canada's prosperity and success ties directly to trade. Trade improves our standard of living, advances innovation, and ensures food remains affordable and healthful. As the CUSMA joint review approaches, the Government of Canada must recognize the important role agriculture plays in the Canadian economy and the need for a timely renewal of CUSMA. Given the importance of CUSMA, KAP is please to provide a number of recommendations for government to consider during the CUSMA review.

#### **KAP's recommendations for CUSMA:**

- Maintain the existing rules-based framework that is part of CUSMA;
- Address non-tariff trade barriers through the Regulatory Cooperation Council;
- Continue to ensure that sanitary and phytosanitary measures are science based. The measures must be applied in a clear, predictable, non-discriminatory way;
- Address the extra-territorial impact of local trade barriers that affect the movement of goods between countries (e.g., California's Proposition 12);
- Continue to allow parties to set phytosanitary measures that follow WTO rights and obligations while protecting food safety and animal health;
- Chapter 31 of CUSMA—dispute settlement—must remain in place;
- Create an *effective* mechanism that ensures unwarranted trade barriers are addressed quickly;
- Continue to improve the import and export processes between countries that emphasize automation;
- Review articles to ensure they are evidence based and limit unneeded redundancies; and
- Increase competitive market opportunities for agricultural goods while respecting the needs of supply management.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide feedback on the CUSMA consultations. If you have any questions about this submission, please contact KAP policy manger, Neil Van Overloop, at [neil.vanoverloop@kap.ca](mailto:neil.vanoverloop@kap.ca).

**601-386 Broadway | Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3R6**  
**[www.kap.ca](http://www.kap.ca)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenna Mahoney". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brenna Mahoney

General Manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.