



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Canada's Meat Industry Praises Potential Free Trade Agreement between Canada and Japan**

**OTTAWA, Ont., Wednesday February 23, 2011-** Canada's meat processing industry is grateful for the hard work of the Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper, International Trade Minister the Honourable Peter Van Loan and the Honourable Stockwell Day President of the Treasury Board and Minister for the Asia-Pacific in launching a study to look at the economic impact of a potential free trade agreement between Canada and Japan.

Canadian Meat Council President Brian Read was very pleased with the announcement. "Japan represents one of the best customers for Canada's meat exports. With a population of almost 128 million people Japan is the world's largest net importer of food products."

Canada exported 227,000 tonnes of pork valued at \$865 million to Japan in 2009. In addition, Canada exported 11,000 tonnes of beef valued at \$58 million and 3,200 tonnes of horse meat valued at over \$20 million to Japan in 2009.

As the world's second-largest economy, Japan remains a priority market for Canada. It is the third-largest market for Canadian goods exports (\$11.1 billion in 2008) and Canada's fourth-largest source of imported goods (\$15.3 billion in 2008). There is also a substantial two-way trade in services, totalling \$3.8 billion in 2008 (\$1.5 billion for exports to Japan and \$2.3 billion for imports from Japan).

The Canadian meat industry is the largest of our food processing sectors with some 67,000 employees and gross annual sales of over \$ 21.4 billion. Last year Canada exported over \$1.3 billion of beef and over \$2.4 billion of pork to over 150 different countries around the world. Canada's meat processing industry is made up of over 400 federally registered establishments, often located in rural settings adding jobs and important economic activity to the life of rural Canada.

The Canadian Meat Council has been representing Canada's federally inspected meat processing industry since 1919.

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