



Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

March 31, 2017

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road, Tower 1
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y9

Attention: Richard Arsenault, Executive Director
Domestic Food Safety Systems and Meat Hygiene Directorate

Re: Consultation on Safe Food for Canadians Act proposed regulations

Dear Mr. Arsenault;

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture represents the interests of over 2,400 farm families in Nova Scotia. As part of our role, we review changes to regulations and analyse the impacts that the changes will have on either the industry as a whole, or specific sectors of industry. Recently, issues have been identified with the proposed regulations for the Safe Food for Canadians Act.

The Safe Food for Canadians Act is ensuring that Canadians have access to high quality, safe food. Unfortunately, the proposed regulations are burdensome to many farmers selling direct-to-market (directly to consumers or end users such as restaurants) across provincial boundaries. Because of the relationship nature of the direct-to-market model of farming, farmers in this sector recognize the business loss they will face in the unfortunate event of an outbreak and maintain efforts to ensure their food is safe for their customers.

A recommended change for the *Safe Food for Canadians Act Regulations* would be to exempt all direct-to-market interprovincial sales from the federal regulations and be regulated as per the legislation in the sold-in province. To comply with the proposed regulations, the yearly cost for a farm selling produce directly to consumers in a neighbouring community which is also located across a provincial boundary would be in the vicinity of \$7000.

While we can all support the idea that Canadians must have access to safe food, access to local, healthy food must be a top priority.

I ask that you familiarize yourself with how these regulations will impact direct-to-market farms and in turn the rural economy. Thank-you for your consideration; please do not hesitate to contact the office staff with any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris van den Heuvel
President

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

cc: Nova Scotia Members of Parliament
Nova Scotia County Federations of Agriculture

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