



March 31, 2020

Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7, Floor 9, Room 149
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Hon. Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
70 Colombine Drive Way
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Hon. Filomena Tassi, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Labour
140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV, 12th Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

Dear Ministers:

As you are aware, the current situation regarding COVID-19 is unprecedented and is creating a great deal of uncertainty for all Canadians – families, workers, and farmers. Canada’s farmers appreciate the steadfast commitment from all levels of government to ensure the food supply chain is considered an essential service across the country at this time – and we need your help in maintaining its continuity.

Farmers understand that public health officials are taking all necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of all Canadians, and particularly essential workers during this time. The wellbeing and workplace safety of these essential workers is of utmost importance – as is food security. Farmers want to ensure all levels of government and public health authorities across the country understand the critical impact that a COVID-19-related disruption at a processing plant could have on food security. Not only would it disrupt the supply chain, but the closure of even one plant could have a ripple effect of food scarcity across the entire country.

Canadian farmers and processors play a key role in food security in this country. The Canadian chicken supply chain works hard to provide Canadians with Canada’s number one meat protein, and ensure they have fresh, local chicken on their plates each week.

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Ministers, Canada's chicken farmers are proud of the role we have to play during this difficult time. We urge you to continue to work with your provincial counterparts to ensure that food security for Canadians is always strongly considered when making workplace-related decisions during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benoît Fontaine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Benoît Fontaine
Chair
Chicken Farmers of Canada

CC: Provincial Health Ministers
Provincial Agriculture Ministers