

# FCPC

Food & Consumer  
Products of Canada

# PACC

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MODERNIZE FOOD REGULATORY SYSTEM: CANADA'S FOOD INDUSTRY**

*Canada's largest manufacturing sector calls on Agriculture Ministers to support an improved and more responsive food regulatory system for Canadians*

**ST ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK**– Canada's food manufacturers are calling on Agriculture Ministers from across the country to support more modern food regulations in Canada as they gather to meet this week in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

An improved and more responsive food regulatory system would benefit all Canadians, which is why Food & Consumer Products of Canada (FCPC) is encouraging Ministers to support innovative products for Canadians and increased opportunities for Canadian food manufacturers and farmers across the country.

As the largest purchasers of Canadian agricultural output, Canadian food manufacturers are working closely with Canadian farmers to secure the future of food in Canada. A more modern food regulatory system would result in greater demand for value-added agricultural products – which helps farmers and manufacturers alike - and would provide Canadians with a wider variety of healthier-for-you-food choices on grocery store shelves.

Unfortunately, the current food regulatory framework in Canada means that new and innovative food products are often delayed for years in the approvals bureaucracy – and Canadian manufacturers are not able to innovate and sell these products in Canadian stores.

FCPC hopes the Ministers gathered in St. Andrews this week will lend their support to Canada's food manufacturing industry, farmers and all Canadians by encouraging the federal government to review and modernize our national food regulations.

### **QUOTES**

"Canada's outdated food regulations are holding back food manufacturers of all sizes from growing their businesses here in Canada. As the global food supply and consumer demands continue to change it is critical that our food regulatory framework keeps pace. Canada should be a leader in food manufacturing. Unfortunately, our current food regulatory system is lagging behind the rest of the world."

- Nancy Croitoru, President & CEO, FCPC

### **FACTS**

- Food and consumer product manufacturers provide jobs to 300,000 Canadians – making our industry the largest manufacturing employer in Canada.

- Almost 12,000 of those jobs are located here in New Brunswick.
- The manufacturing industry is the largest purchaser of Canadian agricultural output, using approximately 44 per cent of it in our 6,000 processing facilities located across the country.
- Canada's food regulatory system has barely been modified since 1953, while competing nations have evolved their systems to keep pace with the type of innovation happening today.
- According to a 2011 Conference Board of Canada report, the food manufacturing sector, on the whole, experienced average growth of 3.6% per year since 2005 and production rose by an average of 1.4% per year. Despite these gains, the food manufacturing sector has experienced an employment decline of almost 30,000 since 2004.
- According to a [2009 George Morris Centre report](#), the costs associated with Canada's lagging system are very high and far-reaching.
  - As an example from the report, margarine fortified with plant sterols were only recently approved for sale in Canada, more than a decade after the product was approved in the US and more than 19 other countries.

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For More Information

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