



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

COMMUNIQUE

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CANADA PERSUADES KEY TRADING PARTNERS TO AGREE
TO PLACE AGRICULTURE HIGH ON WORLD TRADE AGENDA

Momentum is building to deal with the crisis in agricultural trade caused by the export subsidy war and other barriers to trade in agricultural products. All four Ministers attending the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' meeting in Tokyo on April 24-26 signalled their intent to advance agricultural reform in the upcoming Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Ministerial meeting in Paris on May 12-13.

The issue was raised at the meeting by the Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, after negotiations with Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr. Hajime Tamura, to place agriculture on the agenda. Canada proposed five principles to deal with distortions in world agricultural trade at the March meeting of trade ministers in Taupo, New Zealand.

The Canadian principles state that agricultural policies should be designed so as not to adversely affect international trade. To this end and progressively over time:

1. Agriculture policies must become more price responsive.
2. Support for agriculture should avoid production incentives, i.e. support should be for farmers not farming.
3. Countries should freeze and seek to reduce governmental assistance measures that artificially distort world prices.
4. Countries should not introduce new import barriers not mandated by existing legislation.
5. These basic principles must be implemented collectively.

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