



# communiqué

N°: 186  
No.:

DECEMBER 21, 1984

## AGRICULTURE AND TRADE MINISTERS ANNOUNCE BEEF AND VEAL QUOTAS

---

OTTAWA, December 21, 1984: The Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable John Wise and the Minister for International Trade, the Honourable James Kelleher announced today that the Government has decided to impose restriction on the quantity of beef and veal that will be permitted entry into Canada during 1985. The Ministers announced that for the calendar year 1985 a global import quota is being established under the Meat Import Act at a level of 66.5 million kg (146.5 million lbs.) which is equivalent to Canada's Global Minimum Access Commitment under the GATT.

The Government's decision to invoke the Meat Import Act was considered necessary in view of the surge in imports of beef which took place in 1984 and the anticipated high level of imports in 1985.

Mr. Wise stated that the rapid increase in imports of subsidized beef has had a serious impact on slaughter cow prices in Canada which has significantly reduced returns to Canadian cattle producers.

The Ministers stated that consultations will be initiated immediately with the following countries which export beef to the Canadian market: Australia, EEC, New Zealand, Nicaragua, United States. These consultations are being initiated with a view to working out an arrangement which could permit the suspension of controls while safeguarding Canadian industry from unfair and damaging import competition. Pending the outcome of these consultations, the global import quota will be allocated to supplying countries on the basis of their share of imports into Canada during the period 1979-1983.