



## CPMA Encouraged by Attention Paid to Produce Industry Issues in New Canada/US Joint Action Plan

**December 8, 2011- Ottawa, ON** - Following their Declaration on a Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness, made earlier this year, Prime Minister Steven Harper and President Barack Obama announced yesterday that Canada and the United States have finalized a Joint Action Plan designed to boost legitimate trade and travel, improve security and align regulatory approaches between the two countries.

The Joint Action Plan outlines significant initiatives, in two reports, directly related to the priorities of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association's (CPMA) members and includes the initiatives below, as detailed in the following documents [Action Plan on Regulatory Cooperation](#) and [Action Plan on Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness](#) :

- *Develop comparable approaches to **financial risk mitigation tools** to protect Canadian and U.S. fruit and vegetable suppliers from buyers that default on their payment obligations.*
- *Further align **crop protection product (e.g., pesticides) approvals and establishment of maximum pesticide residue limits/tolerances** in both countries.*
- *Develop a **perimeter approach to plant protection** with a view to leverage each country's efforts to mutual advantage and, where possible, streamline certification requirements for cross-border shipments.*
- *Develop **common approaches to food safety**, in light of food safety modernization efforts in both countries, to jointly enhance the safety of the Canada-U.S. food supply and minimize the need for routine food safety surveillance inspection activities in each other's country (applies to products within the mandates of both the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration).*
- *Develop a **harmonized approach to screening inbound cargo** arriving from offshore that will result in increased security and the expedited movement of secure cargo across the Canada-United States border, under the principle of "cleared once, accepted twice."*
- *Provide a **single window** through which importers can **electronically submit all information to comply with customs** and other participating government agency regulations.*
- *Invest in **Improving Shared Border Infrastructure and Technology***

CPMA is committed to working with the Canadian government, on behalf of its members, through the CPMA Government Issues Management Working Group which brings members of the produce industry together with government representatives to talk about issues, collaboration and resolutions. CPMA and the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) came together in November for the Fall Harvest Event which included a series of meetings that brought produce industry issues, some of which have been addressed in the new Joint Action Plan, to the attention of Members of Parliament from across the country.

"Our goal has been to identify these and other issues in our industry and bring them to the attention of our government representatives to encourage action." said CPMA President, Ron Lemaire. "It is gratifying to see that the Joint Action Plan includes initiatives relative to the food safety, financial risk mitigation, efficacious border clearance and other issues that we know are priority areas for our industry. We look forward to working towards realization of our common objectives."

The complete documents and associated background information and reports are available online at: [www.borderactionplan.gc.ca](http://www.borderactionplan.gc.ca).

### **About the Canadian Produce Marketing Association**

Based in Ottawa, Ontario, the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) is a not-for-profit organization that represents companies that are active in the marketing of fresh fruits and fresh vegetables in Canada, from the farm gate to the dinner plate. CPMA's vision is to enable and lead the produce industry by enhancing the market and facilitating trade of fresh fruits and vegetables for its more than 760 international and Canadian members who are responsible for 90% of the fresh fruit and vegetable sales in Canada. For more information, please visit [www.cpma.ca](http://www.cpma.ca).

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