



# Spring Weight Restrictions on Highways

Election 2019

***Our Ask:*** Take a leadership role in working with provincial and territorial governments to align spring weight restriction limits on highways.

## BACKGROUND

- The produce industry is active in transporting goods from coast to coast to coast in order to provide Canadians with quality products.
- However, the lack of alignment of spring weight restrictions on highways during the thaw (February to May annually) increases the costs of moving product interprovincially.
- Currently, a CPMA member in PEI pays an additional \$97,000 a year in shipping costs as a result of differing spring weight restrictions across the country.
- For every 5 trucks they use to ship product interprovincially, they must send out a sixth to make up for the lost weight.
- The cumulative cost of this lack of alignment across the entire fresh produce industry would be staggering.
- In an era where truck drivers are becoming scarcer, a long-term solution to this problem must be found or interprovincial trade of fresh produce items risk becoming more limited as costs continue to soar.

## ACTION REQUIRED

- While spring weight restrictions on highways is under provincial jurisdiction, CPMA calls on all parties to take a leadership role in these discussions should they be elected in 2019.
- This issue is part of the 2018-2019 work plan for the Regulatory Reconciliation and

Cooperation Table under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and provides a unique opportunity to address this issue.

- Federal leadership on this file will help reduce regulatory barriers and costs faced by growers/packers/shippers in the fresh produce industry.
- The federal government is asked to support an agriculture exemption from spring weight restrictions across the country. (Exemptions already exist for poultry and milk products.)