

## **PRESS RELEASE**

## CPMA and Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition Celebrate Second World Food Safety Day

June 7, 2020 (Ottawa, ON) – Today, the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and the Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition join with the United Nations General Assembly, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations around the world to celebrate the second World Food Safety Day.

Recognizing that food safety is a shared responsibility from production through to consumption, the theme for the day is "Food safety, everyone's business" and includes the following calls to action:

- 1. Ensure it's safe Government must ensure safe and nutritious food for all
- 2. Grow it safe Agriculture and food producers need to adopt good practices
- 3. Keep it safe Business operators must make sure food is safe
- 4. Eat it safe All consumers have a right to safe, healthy and nutritious food
- 5. Team up for safety Food Safety is a shared responsibility

CPMA's Food Safety Specialist, Jeff Hall, Chair of the Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition, stated: "Food safety continues to be a priority every day for all stakeholders along the Canadian food supply chain. With the passage of the Safe Food for Canadians Act (2012) and its Regulations (2018 [Phase 1]), Canada has taken steps to modernize our food safety regulatory regime. The move to a more horizontal, risk- and outcome-based approach demonstrates the success of collaboration between government and other stakeholders. The Canadian Produce Marketing Association, along with the Coalition, look forward to the opportunity for ongoing collaboration as modernization of the Regulations continues."

CPMA is focused on providing current, science-based information to its members and communicating with industry, government, and consumers to develop collaborative relationships while investigating areas of standardization and equivalency, to decrease redundancy and increase effectiveness and accountability in food safety. CPMA offers a wide array of food safety services and support to its membership, including:

- The Canadian Food Safety Fund CPMA's fund dedicated to supporting Canadian-focused research and education in the areas of pathogens, regulatory changes, and best practices.
- Product Recalls timely member bulletins to alert CPMA members of produce recalls in the Canadian market.
- Workshops virtual and in-person workshops to educate staff of CPMA member companies on food safety best practices, current issues, standards, and best practices.
- Webinars live webinars addressing current issues affecting CPMA member companies, archived on the CPMA Community web page.

 Individual Member Support – professional guidance available to CPMA members by contacting CPMA's Food Safety Specialist, Jeff Hall.

The Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition was formed in December 2000 to provide a forum for dialogue within the food supply chain and between industry and governments on food safety. The Coalition's membership currently includes 26 industry associations and organizations representing every link in the aquatic and terrestrial food supply chain, from input suppliers, through to primary producers, processors, food manufacturers, distributors and transporters, importers and exporters, final marketers in retail and food service as well as providers of goods, inputs and services to the food supply chain. The Coalition remains committed to the development of a national coordinated food safety strategy for Canada – a national strategy that will ensure that Canadians are confident of the same high level of food safety no matter where they live or where food is produced.

"The Coalition welcomes the annual celebration of June 7 as World Food Safety Day. Coalition members and their members, the food businesses across Canada, are dedicated to food safety, today and every day. This annual UN declaration is a reminder that gives us all the opportunity to recommit to that goal." stated Jackie Crichton, Executive Director of the Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition.

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## **About the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA):**

Based in Ottawa, Ontario, CPMA is a not-for-profit organization that represents a diverse membership made up of every segment of the produce industry supply chain who are responsible for 90% of the fresh fruit and vegetable sales in Canada. CPMA is fortunate to represent a sector that is both a significant economic driver for communities and that also improves the health and productivity of Canadians.