

FEED OUR PEOPLE! FIRST!

Whereas negotiations intensify at the approach of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Review Conference scheduled for next December in Hong Kong;

Whereas these negotiations could jeopardize the future of our supply-managed agricultural productions (dairy, chicken, turkey, table eggs, hatching eggs);

Whereas supply management is an equitable agricultural model that allows us:

- to provide Canadian consumers with Canadian products of quality at affordable prices;
- to get a fair and reasonable income from the market, without subsidy;
- to support human-sized farms that allow producers and their families to live decently;
- to preserve our heritage and our specificity by maintaining local agricultural production;
- to support a local production that avoid expensive transport, over several thousands of kilometres, of commodities produced in distant countries;
- to provide work to local people;
- to support economic and regional development across Quebec and elsewhere in Canada;

Whereas Canada, at the beginning of the Doha cycle, committed towards Canadian producers to negotiate conditions that could maintain supply management;

Whereas the introduction of the sensitive-commodities concept in the framework agreement signed in July 2004 provides Canada with sufficient flexibility to preserve supply management;

Whereas our food sovereignty and our capacity to feed our people first depend on the results of these negotiations;

Therefore the undersigned, agricultural producers and supporters of an equitable agricultural model, request that the Prime Minister of Canada ask his representatives to continue advocating for supply management and negotiating with determination a final agreement that will:

- recognize supply-managed commodities as sensitive commodities;
- allow the government to efficiently control imports and enforce a pricing policy covering production costs.

Signatures:

