September 2, 2022

Mr. Peter Pokory, Deputy Minister, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Mr. Shannon Marchand, Deputy Minister, Alberta Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development

Mr. Rick Burton, Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Ms. Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Agriculture

Mr. John Kelly, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Mr. Bernard Verret, Sous-ministre, Ministers de l'Agriculture

Ms. Cathy LaRochelle, Deputy Minister, New Brunswick Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries

Ms. Loretta Robichaud, Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Mr. Brian Matheson, Deputy Minister, Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Land

Ms. Tracy King, Deputy Minister, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

RE: Canadian Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank

Dear Provincial Deputy Ministers,

The entire Canadian cattle industry is calling for funding of a Canadian Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine bank.

We ask your Ministry of Agriculture to join us in communicating with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) about the urgent need for Canada to invest in this critical infrastructure.

An incursion of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) into Canada would lead to an immediate border closure to exports from the beef, pork, and dairy sectors. A large-scale outbreak in Canada has the potential for a $50-to-$60-billion-dollar financial impact on the Canadian economy. Losses are directly associated with the duration of trade interruption. Rapid access to sufficient doses of vaccine is imperative for a speedy return to Canada's current trade status of "Foot and Mouth Disease Free without Vaccination".

Canada participates in the North American FMD vaccine bank (NAFMDVB) with Mexico and the United States. Canada's contribution entitles us to 330,000 doses of vaccine. This is a fraction of the 2.5 million doses required for an FMD incursion in a livestock dense area of Canada. Vaccination was historically considered a tool of last resort. However, experiences from FMD outbreaks in Japan and the Republic of Korea have led to new epidemiological models and changes to the World Organization for Animal Health (formally the OIE) guidelines. Vaccination would now play a central role in any large- or uncontrolled outbreak in Canada.

There is an urgent need to address Canada's shortage of FMD vaccine. Foot and Mouth disease remains common in Asia, the Middle East, South America and parts of Africa. Additionally, Indonesia is

actively fighting and outbreak with over 3000 cases reported since detection in May 2022. In July, Australia increased its domestic biosecurity for travelers returning from Indonesia and Bali and also reported the detection of non-viable FMD viral particles in legally imported food products. The elevated risk in Australia serves to remind us that the threat of FMD is very real.

The projected annual cost of the Canadian FMD vaccine bank is $3.2 million including potency and licensing testing. The allocation of these funds has been a major impediment for this initiative. The responsibility for prevention, preparedness and recovery from foreign animal disease is shared broadly between AAFC, the CFIA, affected industries, and provincial-territorial governments. The regulatory responsibility for foreign animal disease response lies with the CFIA. The provinces and territories are being approach for shared funding for the Canadian FMD vaccine bank. This approach is unacceptable to the CCA given the regulatory responsibility of the CFIA and the expected delay for any FPT funding agreement.

The entire Canadian Cattle industry asks you to join us in urging AAFC and CFIA to request the federal treasury fund the proposed Canadian FMD vaccine bank. This is a key priority for Canadian beef producers to ensure economic viability in our future.

Sincerely,



Reg Schellenberg, President
Canadian Cattle Association



James Bekkering, Chair
National Cattle Feeders' Association



Brian Thomas, President
BC Cattlemen's Association



Melanie Wowk, Chair
Alberta Beef Producers

Arnold Balicki, Chair
Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association

Tyler Fulton, President
Manitoba Beef Producers

Jack Chaffe, President
Beef Farmers of Ontario

Jean-Thomas Maltais, Chair
Quebec Cattle Producers

Trevor Welch, Chair
New Brunswick Cattle Producers

Larry Weatherby, Chair
Nova Scotia Cattle Producers

Dennis Hogan

Dennis Hogan, Chair
Prince Edward Island Cattle Producers