



TEAMALBERTA

ADVANCING ALBERTA'S CROP SECTOR TO 2025 AND BEYOND

September 16, 2022

Honourable Nate Horner
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and
Rural Economic Development
Office of the Minister
131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Horner,

On behalf of Team Alberta Crops and thousands of farmers we represent, who grow and export agricultural products from Alberta to world markets, we are writing to encourage you to join us in advocating to the Government of Canada for the establishment of an Indo-Pacific Diversification Office.

We recognize that Alberta has already taken steps to establish a network of professionals in eight international locations throughout the Indo-Pacific. This opportunity will enhance those sites with critical expertise to dive into issues that are barriers or are restricting trade of agricultural goods.

Team Alberta Crops and many of the national organizations that we support have been asking that the Government of Canada include agriculture in the development of its Indo-Pacific Strategy. Specifically, our request is for the establishment of an Indo-Pacific Diversification Office. The key opportunity is to strengthen export diversification while growing Canadian agriculture's contribution to food security in the region. While the Indo-Pacific is a key region targeted for growth by many of the Team Alberta Crops members, various commodities have experienced market access issues, mainly in the form of non-tariff trade barriers, which have stifled this growth opportunity. We believe the establishment of an Indo-Pacific Diversification Office is imperative for Canadian agriculture to effectively respond to these market access issues, increase exports, and maintain our competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

We are requesting your support in the form of a joint letter or statement that will be shared with Government of Canada representatives.

An Indo-Pacific Diversification Office is envisioned to create many opportunities such as:

- Establish an in-region centre of excellence outlining Canada as a trusted partner to markets;
- Allow a dedicated and resourced market access team to maintain contact with agriculture policy makers and regulators;
- Provide rapid responses and proactive action addressing market access barriers;
- Ensuring Canada is at the leading edge of emerging trends while facilitating communication with foreign officials;
- Create opportunities for more frequent interaction with regulators in importing countries and leverage experts to support in a technical capacity while championing science-based regulatory approaches; and
- Deliver a common timely voice for Canada and a coordinated response to market access and trade issues through coordination between various levels of government and industry that have offices in the region.

Industry is advocating that the office be populated with technical personnel to prevent and address market access issues arising from sanitary and phytosanitary measures. These measures are often an issue for our sector and the global markets





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that we serve. There will also be regulatory policy experts who can assist in building capacity regionally and champion science-based regulatory approaches in key markets as well as include agriculture and trade policy personnel.

We look forward to learning of your decision on advancing support nationally for the establishment of an Indo-Pacific Diversification Office as a key component of Canada's broader Indo-Pacific Strategy. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Reg Warkentin, Team Alberta Crops Government Relations and Policy Manager for more information at reg@teamalbertacrops.com.

Sincerely yours,

Tara Sawyer, Chair, Alberta Barley

Jeremy Olthof, Chair, Alberta Beekeepers Commission

Roger Chevraux, Chair, Alberta Canola Producers Commission

Robert Semeniuk, Chair, Alberta Pulse Growers

Tracy Niemela, Chair, Alberta & BC Seed Growers

Gary Tokariuk, Chair, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers

Greg Sears, Chair, Alberta Wheat Commission

James Bareman, Chair, Potato Growers of Alberta

Cc. Premier Jason Kenney and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
Hon. Tanya Fir, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation



Alberta
Barley

