

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Growing and Diversifying Alberta's Agrifood and Agribusiness Sectors

Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Third Session
April 2017



Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

April 2017

**To the Honourable Robert Wanner
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Alberta**

I have the honour of submitting, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, its final report pursuant to Standing Order 52.07(2) and (4) on **Growing and Diversifying Alberta's Agrifood and Agribusiness Sectors**.

Sincerely,

[Original Signed]

Graham Sucha, MLA
Chair, Standing Committee
on Alberta's Economic Future

c. Mr. Robert H. Reynolds, QC
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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29th Legislature, Third Session

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^{§§} February 1, 2017

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future is one of three Legislative Policy Committees appointed by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Standing Order 52.01(1)(b) indicates that the Committee's mandate is related to the areas of Agriculture and Forestry, Advanced Education, Infrastructure, Economic Development and Trade, Culture and Tourism, and Labour. Under Standing Order 52.07 the Committee has the ability to initiate a review of any matter of public policy within its mandate. Having initiated any such review, the Committee must conclude the inquiry and issue a substantive report to the Assembly within six months.

On October 20, 2016, the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future passed the following motion to undertake a study on how to grow and diversify Alberta's agrifood and agribusiness sectors:

Moved by Mr. S. Anderson that in the interest of strengthening and diversifying Alberta's economy, the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future undertake a study of how to grow and diversify the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in the province and that the scope of the study be focused on value-added production and small-business opportunities, and local food production and promotion.

As part of the study the Committee held meetings on November 15, 2016, February 1, 2017, February 22 and 23, 2017, and March 14 and 15, 2017. During this time the Committee received 104 written submissions from members of the public and identified stakeholders (Appendix A) and 32 oral presentations from identified stakeholders (Appendix B).

This report contains the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future following its deliberations on growing and diversifying the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in the province. This report is not intended to be a comprehensive record of the Committee's proceedings; nor is it a review of individual projects or proposals. For a complete record reference consult the transcripts of the Committee proceedings, including the oral presentations made to the Committee, which are available online at assembly.ab.ca.

2.0 SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future makes the following recommendations with respect to growing and diversifying the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in the province:

1. That [the Government] pursue strategies and initiatives in collaboration with industry stakeholders to move Alberta products up the value chain and encourage business development, including evaluating and expanding current successful plans for specialty products, niche markets, and value-added production, processing, and export.
2. That the Government improve access to capital for small- and medium-sized business to enable them to start and grow businesses and consider increasing the \$5 million cap on value-added and agribusiness program loans provided through the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation.
3. That the Government encourage collaboration between academia, government, and industry to ensure that Alberta producers are leaders in the agribusiness sector and explore the feasibility of sponsoring an annual conference to study and commercialize agrifood and agribusiness.
4. That the Government work with industry and related stakeholders to develop a certification program for Alberta beef.

5. That [the Government] continue to grow existing markets and aggressively seek out new markets for the agrifood sector by leveraging Canada's international reputation in the promotion of made-in-Alberta products.
6. That the Government expand the Explore Local initiative to include a made-in-Alberta brand to assist in expanding and promoting local market demand for local products as well as creating a recognizable brand that signifies sustainable, responsible, and quality food products.
7. That, where possible, regulations that impact the agrifood or agribusiness sectors should enhance the competitiveness of agrifood and agribusiness industries.
8. That the Government identify inconsistencies between provincial and federal regulations and explore strategies to expand interprovincial trade.
9. That the Government continue to urge the federal government and the rail industry to provide reliable rail transportation to and from northern Alberta so that agribusiness goods have better access to Alberta and international markets.
10. That the Government improve online market intelligence and information and tools for exporters.
11. That the Government find ways to leverage carbon reduction and sequestration strategies and incentives to increase the efficiency and sustainability of Alberta agriculture.
12. That the Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, encourage the inclusion of educational content in the curriculum for Alberta students to promote understanding and interest in the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in Alberta.
13. That the Government work with the federal government and industry to ensure that companies in the agrifood and agribusiness sectors have access to labour, with a priority on creating opportunities for Albertans.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As discussed above, at its meeting on October 20, 2016, the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future decided to initiate a study on ways to strengthen and diversify Alberta's economy by examining ways to grow and diversify the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in the province. The study focused on value-added production, small-business opportunities, and local food production and promotion in Alberta. As it proceeded with its inquiry, the Committee sought opportunities for the province to improve its performance in these three areas.

In undertaking this initiative, the Committee reflected on the extent to which agrifood and agribusiness already represent strong sectors of the provincial economy with the potential for future growth. In its presentation to the Committee on November 15, 2016, and in its Annual Report, 2015-2016, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry discussed the province's record achievements in the areas of food and beverage manufacture and the export of processed products. Total food and beverage manufacturing sales for the province increased for the sixth consecutive year to sales of \$14.6 billion in 2015, which was a seven per cent increase over 2014. Exports of agrifood products amounted to \$10.2 billion, an increase of five per cent over 2014.¹ Processed agricultural products accounted for 47 per cent of the total agrifood exports in 2015.² In 2015 the export of processed products increased 13 per cent to \$4.8 billion while exports of primary commodities declined two per cent to \$5.4 billion.³ Primary commodities are products that are in a raw or unprocessed state, such as crops or livestock, while processed products are primary commodities that have been refined or manufactured to increase value.⁴ The higher values and quantities of meats, crude canola oil, processed potatoes, animal feed, and malt in 2015 account for the higher export revenues of processed products in 2015.⁵ The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Annual Report, 2015-2016, notes that "in 2015, the export trend continued to shift toward processed or

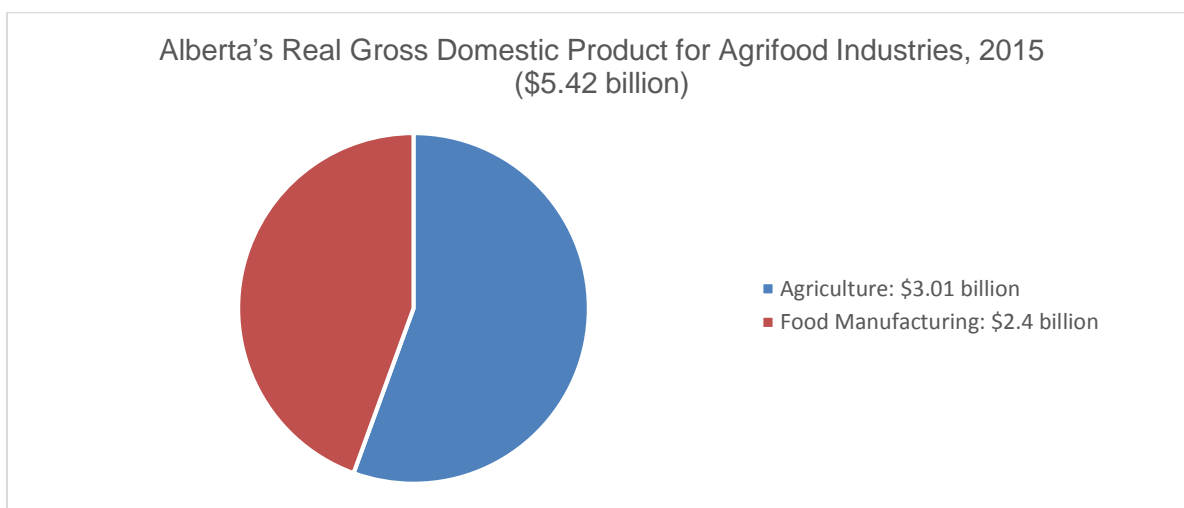
manufactured products and the gap between primary and manufactured exports has narrowed,"⁶ making this sector potentially very lucrative for the province going forward.

To consider some of these trends and the potential for future growth, the Committee considered the portion of Alberta's real gross domestic product that was accounted for by agrifood industries in 2015, the number of individuals employed in the agrifood industries, the value of food and beverage manufacturing sales in 2015, and the province's international agrifood exports in 2015 and between 2006 and 2015.

3.1 Alberta's Real Gross Domestic Product for the Agrifood Industries

In 2015 Alberta's agrifood industries were responsible for approximately \$5.41 billion of the province's real gross domestic product. This total was similar to that of 2014, when Alberta's real gross domestic product for agrifood industries totalled approximately \$5.42 billion. Of the \$5.41 billion total of Alberta's real gross domestic product in 2015 primary agricultural commodities accounted for \$3.01 billion and food manufacturing accounted for \$2.4 billion as shown in figure 1.

Figure 1: Alberta's Real Gross Domestic Product, Agriculture and Food Manufacturing Industries, 2015



Source: Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture Statistics Fact Sheet, [Edmonton: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, July 2016].

3.2 Number of Individuals Employed in the Agrifood Industries

The total employed labour force in Alberta in 2015 was 2,301,100 individuals. The agrifood industries employed 89,200 individuals. Of those 89,200 individuals 26,400 were employed in food and beverage manufacturing. This was a 3.5 per cent increase over 2014, when 25,500 individuals were employed in food and beverage manufacturing as shown in figure 2.

Figure 2: Labour Force Employed in the Agrifood Industries

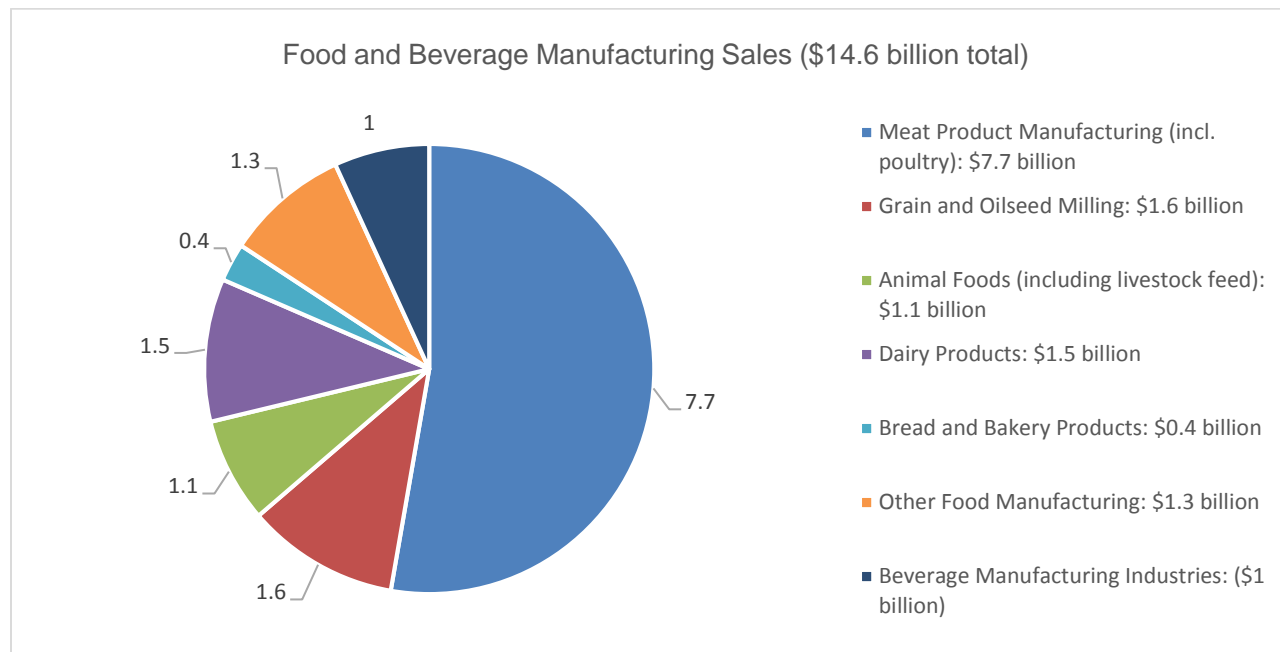
	2014	2015
Total Employed Labour Force	2,274,600	2,301,100
Agrifood Industries (total)	86,100	89,200
Agriculture (including crop production, animal production, mixed farming, and support activities for agriculture)	60,600	62,800
Food and Beverage Manufacturing	25,500	26,400

Source: Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture Statistics Fact Sheet, [Edmonton: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, July 2016].

3.3 Value of Food and Beverage Manufacturing Sales

In 2015 sales of Alberta's manufactured food and beverage industry were \$14.6 billion, making this Alberta's top manufacturing industry on a revenue basis.⁷ As shown in figure 3, meat product manufacturing accounted for just over half of the sector's sales, followed by grain and oilseed milling; animal foods, including livestock feed; dairy products; bread and bakery products; and other food manufacturing. The category of other food manufacturing includes coffee, tea, seasonings, dressings, flavourings, specialty foods, sugar and confectionary products, seafood products, cookies, crackers, and pasta.

Figure 3: Food and Beverage Manufacturing Sales, 2015



Source: Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture Statistics Fact Sheet, [Edmonton: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, July 2016]. Please note: the amounts provided on the fact sheet for 2015 were preliminary.

3.4 Alberta's Agrifood Exports 2015

As discussed above, in 2015 the export of processed product from Alberta totalled approximately \$4.8 billion in 2015. Exports to China grew between 2014 and 2015. Alberta's top five export markets in 2015 were the United States, accounting for a 39.3 per cent share; China, accounting for a 15.6 per cent share; Japan, accounting for a 10.8 per cent market share; Mexico, accounting for a 5.6 per cent market share; and South Korea, accounting for a 2.3 per cent market share. Alberta's top five export markets in 2014 and 2015 are shown in figure 4.

Figure 4: Alberta's Top Five Export Markets in 2014 and 2015

Market	2014	2015
United States	\$3.936 billion	\$3.998 billion
China	\$1.329 billion	\$1.588 billion
Japan	\$1.197 billion	\$1.101 billion
Mexico	\$0.537 billion	\$0.572 billion
South Korea	\$0.228 billion	\$0.233 billion

Source: Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture Statistics Fact Sheet, [Edmonton: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, July 2016]. Please note: the amounts provided on the fact sheet for 2015 were preliminary.

Figure 5 shows that in 2015 the largest market share, at approximately \$1.7 billion in exports, comprised beef and veal, including offal. The total export values for pork, processed potatoes, crude canola oil, prepared animal feeds, oilseed cake and meal, malt roasted or not roasted, and other value-added processed products are also provided.

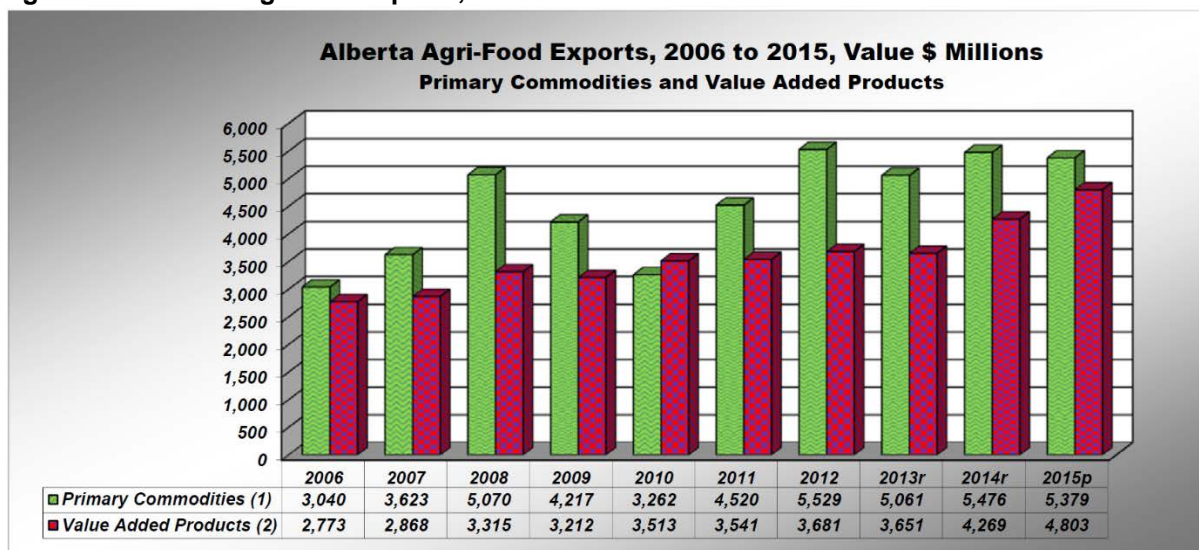
Figure 5: Exports of Value-added Processed Products in 2014 and 2015

	2014	2015
Value-added Processed Products (Total)	\$4.27 billion	\$4.28 billion
Beef and Veal (incl. Offal)	\$1.429 billion	\$1.696 billion
Pork (incl. Offal)	\$0.467 billion	\$0.469 billion
Processed Potatoes	\$0.278 billion	\$0.329 billion
Crude Canola Oil	\$0.185 billion	\$0.324 billion
Prepared Animal Feeds	\$0.243 billion	\$0.317 billion
Oilseed Cake and Meal	\$0.279 billion	\$0.254 billion
Malt Roasted or Not Roasted	\$0.226 billion	\$0.238 billion
Other Value-added Processed Products	\$1.163 billion	\$1.175 billion

Source: Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture Statistics Fact Sheet, [Edmonton: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, July 2016]. Please note: the amounts provided on the fact sheet for 2015 were preliminary.

Finally, the value of Alberta's value-added exports has increased over the past decade, from approximately \$2.7 billion in 2006 to approximately \$4.8 billion in 2015, as shown in figure 6.

Figure 6: Alberta's Agrifood Exports, 2006 to 2015



Source: Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Agri-Food Exports, Alberta 2006-2015, [Edmonton: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, June 2016]. Please note: primary commodities refer to animals and crops; value-added products refer to products and by-products of manufacture (meats, cereal preparations, animal feed, oils, fats, beverages, and other food products. It also includes crude animal and plant products such as peat moss, nursery, hides, and skins).

Considered together, these trends indicate strong potential for the future growth of the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in Alberta.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Value-added

At the start of its deliberations the Committee discussed the importance of undertaking a study of how to grow and diversify the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in Alberta. During its discussions the Committee referenced the comments of several stakeholders who recommended that the Government increase its ongoing efforts to work with industry to grow Alberta's contributions to national and global supply chains in a number of areas. Some stakeholders made general suggestions, including further investment in research and development, to achieve this goal. Other stakeholders referenced the needs and requirements of their particular industries. The Committee heard a variety of suggestions pertaining to, for example, meat production, craft distilleries, pulses, peas, lentils, canola and grains, as well as sugar production.

In order to encourage the development of further opportunities in the agrifood and agribusiness sectors, the Committee decided to suggest that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry continue to work with partners in industry in order to increase value-added production in Alberta. The Committee discussed the need for the Government to further develop strategies and initiatives to assist individuals, companies, regional economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, industry associations, and marketing groups as they develop opportunities to create new opportunities for value-added production, processing, and export.

As a result of these discussions, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 1. That [the Government] pursue strategies and initiatives in collaboration with industry stakeholders to move Alberta products up the value chain and encourage business development, including evaluating and expanding current successful plans for specialty products, niche markets, and value-added production, processing, and export.**

4.2 Access to Capital

In their written submissions and presentations to the Committee, several stakeholders noted the importance of financial support received from the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation via their Value-added and AgriBusiness Program. Stakeholders discussed these loans as particularly important in the early stages of business development, providing enterprises with financing to start, develop, and grow their businesses.

Stakeholders also urged the Committee to support additional financing opportunities to assist businesses as they expand to become larger operations. These stakeholders expressed the need for better access to capital in order to scale-up production, expand facilities, employ more workers, and reach bigger markets. To this end, stakeholders suggested increasing the cap on the loans granted by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation via their Value-added and AgriBusiness Program, which currently stands at \$5 million.

As they considered these comments, the Committee discussed the feasibility of encouraging government to assist companies in their search for financing. The Committee agreed that the Government might increase the cap on the loans granted by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. The Committee also discussed the extent to which Government might play a role in assisting companies in their search for investment from international lenders.

As a result of these discussions, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 2. That the Government improve access to capital for small- and medium-sized business to enable them to start and grow businesses and consider increasing the \$5 million cap on**

value-added and agribusiness program loans provided through the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation.

4.3 Collaboration among Government, Industry, and Academia

A number of stakeholders discussed the importance of collaboration among government, industry, and academia as well as the importance of research and development in growing and diversifying Alberta's agrifood and agribusiness sectors. A number of stakeholders explained the importance of clusters to the development of value-added ingredients in Alberta. The Committee discussed the merits of their proposal. In its submission the Cereal Protein and Cellulose Program at the University of Alberta defined "cluster" as a network that connects companies, academics, and producers across a region for the purposes of sharing expertise and resources and promoting innovation to make full use of ingredients and develop value-added opportunities.

The Committee agreed that the Government should continue to work in tandem with industry and academia in order to improve value-added production and demand for Alberta's agrifood products. In making this suggestion, the Committee noted the extent to which Alberta's postsecondary institutions, including, for example, Olds College, the University of Alberta, and the University of Calgary, conduct world-class agricultural research. In the view of the Committee the Government should therefore create more opportunities to build alignment across Alberta's diverse agrifood sector and further develop Alberta's leadership in this area. The Committee suggested that an annual conference bringing together representatives from government, industry, and academia might be an especially appropriate forum to further develop expertise in Alberta and address the needs and concerns of value-added producers as they seek to reach new markets.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 3. That the Government encourage collaboration between academia, government, and industry to ensure that Alberta producers are leaders in the agribusiness sector and explore the feasibility of sponsoring an annual conference to study and commercialize agrifood and agribusiness.**

4.4 Certification Program for Alberta Beef

The Committee noted that beef produced in Alberta is of the best quality in the world and discussed the need for the development of a certification program to ensure international recognition of the high standard of beef production in the province. The Committee suggested that the Government of Alberta take the lead in this initiative and collaborate with related stakeholders to develop strict standards of certification that would be robust enough to protect Alberta beef in international markets. To establish the standards necessary to achieve international recognition, the Committee suggests that the Government of Alberta work with stakeholders in industry, academia, and the federal government.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 4. That the Government work with industry and related stakeholders to develop a certification program for Alberta beef.**

4.5 Seeking New Markets

The submissions of several stakeholders suggested the promotion of the agribusiness industry in Alberta in various ways through ongoing support for trade missions, conference attendance, and international trade shows. Some stakeholders mentioned the importance of pursuing trade opportunities with the European Union and in the Pacific Rim.

As it reflected on these submissions, the Committee discussed the need to further develop export markets for Alberta's agrifood products. The Committee noted opportunities to increase exports to Asia

and Southeast Asia, in particular, and discussed the extent to which these efforts are already under way through ongoing trade missions. At the same time, Committee members noted the need for government advocacy on specific issues such as the export of fresh, chilled beef to the China market.

In addition, Committee members discussed the extent to which the international market already recognizes the value of products that are made in Canada and the need for Alberta to further capitalize on opportunities generated by international recognition of the quality of Canadian products.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 5. That [the Government] continue to grow existing markets and aggressively seek out new markets for the agrifood sector by leveraging Canada's international reputation in the promotion of made-in-Alberta products.**

4.6 Promotion of Products that are Made in Alberta

In their written submissions and presentations some stakeholders discussed the role that government might play in creating new opportunities to promote products that are made in Alberta. In its discussion of the issue the Committee discussed the feasibility of creating an official designation for products made in the province. This designation would be assigned to products of high quality.

In its search for ways to best accomplish this objective, Committee members noted the Explore Local initiative run by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. According to its website Explore Local “provides support to Alberta’s local food producers and processors who market their products direct to consumers.” The initiative comprises a multidisciplinary team of professionals that connects people and businesses by providing information, learning opportunities, coaching, mentoring, and advocacy, mainly with regard to community-supported agriculture, farmers’ markets, on-farm markets, agritourism, restaurant and institutional sales, and Internet sales. The mission of the initiative is to assist producers and small-scale processors in capitalizing on the demand for local food.*

The Committee discussed the possibility of expanding the Explore Local initiative to increase demand for local products by creating a recognizable made-in-Alberta brand. In the view of the Committee, food products associated with the brand would have to meet standards associated with sustainability, responsibility, and quality.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 6. That the Government expand the Explore Local initiative to include a made-in-Alberta brand to assist in expanding and promoting local market demand for local products as well as creating a recognizable brand that signifies sustainable, responsible, and quality food products.**

4.7 Regulatory Standards

The Committee noted that in their submissions and presentations some stakeholders expressed concern about the impact of provincial and national regulatory frameworks on the competitiveness of their industries. Some of these submissions discussed regulatory duplication, delay, and confusion as potential barriers to growth. Others discussed the extent to which inconsistencies between provincial, interprovincial, and national policies create difficulties for marketing their products and selling products across provincial boundaries.

In addressing these concerns, the Committee acknowledged that adjusting to new regulatory frameworks can be challenging for industries; at the same time, government requires the flexibility and leverage to

* For more information, please see, Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Explore Local: Home, available at [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/All/explore13596](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/All/explore13596) (accessed on March 24, 2017).

make legislation and enter into trade agreements that are in the public interest and enhance competitiveness over time. The Committee also noted the need for the Government of Alberta to identify inconsistencies between interprovincial and federal regulations in relation to food inspection, organic certification, meat processing and transport, and other areas.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- 7. That, where possible, regulations that impact the agrifood or agribusiness sectors should enhance the competitiveness of agrifood and agribusiness industries.**
- 8. That the Government identify inconsistencies between provincial and federal regulations and explore strategies to expand interprovincial trade.**

4.8 Railway Access to Markets

The Committee discussed the submission of Mackenzie County requesting more reliable rail service for producers in northern Alberta so that agribusinesses have better access to provincial and international markets. Better access would facilitate the more economical sale of products to diverse markets. A number of Committee members noted that the provision of interjurisdictional rail services is not within provincial jurisdiction; it falls under federal jurisdiction. Moreover, the Government of Alberta makes ongoing efforts to urge the federal government and railway companies to improve rail service in northern Alberta.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 9. That the Government continue to urge the federal government and the rail industry to provide reliable rail transportation to and from northern Alberta so that agribusiness goods have better access to Alberta and international markets.**

4.9 Online Market Information and Tools for Exporters

The Committee discussed the need for more accessible information on international markets on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that might be useful, especially for smaller producers and first-time exporters seeking to draw on this information to enter international markets. The Committee compared the web page of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry providing information on Exporting to Greater China* to the web page of the Australian Government on Agribusiness to China.† The Committee noted that the Australian example provides information on trends and opportunities, the competitive environment, tariffs, regulations and customs, marketing products and services, and links and industry contacts in an organized and user-friendly way. This example might be one that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry can emulate.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 10. That the Government improve online market intelligence and information and tools for exporters.**

4.10 Carbon Reduction

The Committee noted that in their written submissions and presentations some stakeholders discussed the ecological services provided by agriculture and the roles agriculture can play in responding to climate change. Several stakeholders expressed concern about the impact of the carbon tax on Alberta's

* Please see, Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Exporting to Greater China, available at [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/trade11345](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/trade11345) (accessed on March 24, 2017).

† Please see, Australian Government, Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Agribusiness to China, available at <http://www.austrade.gov.au/Australian/Export/Export-markets/Countries/China/Industries/agribusiness> (accessed on March 24, 2017).

agricultural development while others suggested that the government provide incentives for agricultural producers to move to more environmentally responsible models of production.

In addressing these concerns, the Committee suggested that the Government consider the ways in which the agricultural sector is already reducing its carbon footprint while recognizing that there are still opportunities for the sector to further decrease emissions. The Committee agreed that incentives are needed, especially in the current economic climate, and might create opportunities for agricultural businesses to increase their carbon sequestration strategies.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 11. That the Government find ways to leverage carbon reduction and sequestration strategies and incentives to increase the efficiency and sustainability of Alberta agriculture.**

4.11 Educational Content for Alberta Students

Several stakeholders suggested the need for educational opportunities in elementary and high schools that provide opportunities for students to learn how to grow, cook, and preserve food while gaining a better understanding of sustainable agricultural practices. In addressing these concerns, the Committee noted the role agricultural education of school-aged students might play in growing and diversifying the agrifood and agribusiness sectors. To this end, the Committee suggested that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry encourage the Ministry of Education to include agricultural education in the curriculum.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 12. That the Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, encourage the inclusion of educational content in the curriculum for Alberta students to promote understanding and interest in the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in Alberta.**

4.12 Access to Labour

In their submissions and oral presentations several stakeholders from the meat processing sector discussed the extent to which they face labour shortages and seek a more permanent and stable workforce. In attending to these concerns, the Committee emphasized its desire to grow and diversify the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in the province in order to create more employment opportunities for Albertans. Committee members noted the importance of the provincial government working with the federal government and industry to identify and fill labour shortages by creating job opportunities for Albertans and those who move to the province.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

- 13. That the Government work with the federal government and industry to ensure that companies in the agrifood and agribusiness sectors have access to labour with a priority on creating opportunities for Albertans.**

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the valuable contribution of those who appeared before the Committee to provide Committee members with information about agrifood and agribusiness.

The Committee also wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Legislative Assembly Office support staff.

Dr. Sarah Amato
Mr. Trafton Koenig
Ms Leah Kirtio
Mr. Duncan Leung
Dr. Philip Massolin
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Security staff

6.0 SUBMISSIONS

As part of the study on the potential for growing and diversifying the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in Alberta, the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future invited identified stakeholders and members of the public to make written submissions. The Committee received a total of 104 written submissions. These submissions included 17 associations, 36 businesses, seven academics, four municipalities and 40 private citizens. The Committee also invited stakeholders to make presentations to the Committee as part of the review process. A total of 32 presentations on the agrifood and agribusiness sectors in the province were made to the Committee. A list of those who made written submissions is provided in Appendix A of this report. Appendix B provides a list of those who made oral presentations to the Committee.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Written Presentations to the Committee

Individual	Organization/ Private Citizen
Blair Wright	Olds Agtech Industries Ltd.
Michael Munton	Ben's Quality Meats Ltd.
Steve Bank	Sunora Foods Ltd.
Greg Pahl	Medicine Hat Meat Traders Ltd.
Dr. David Chalack	Stakeholder
Kerry Towle	Sofina Foods
Doug Walkey	Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund Ltd.
Dan Madlung	BioComposites Group
Nelda Radford	Alberta Rhodiola Rosea Growers Organization
Melody Garner-Skiba	Alberta Sugar Beet Growers
Jason Grabowski	Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation
Byron Peters	Mackenzie County
Jean Coppens d'Eeckenbrugge	Peace Gourmet Honey
Darren Walkey	Crop Protein and Cellulose Program, University of Alberta

Individual	Organization/ Private Citizen
Fawn Jackson	Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef
Dr. Stanford Blade	Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta
Stuart Cullum	Olds College
Ashley Rietveld, Jeff Kamlah, Tom Kootstra Meb Gilani, Erna Ference	SM5: Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Turkey Producers, Alberta Milk, Egg Farmers of Alberta, Alberta Chicken Producers
Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza	Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association
Carol Kitchen	United Farmers of Alberta Ltd.
Rory McAlpine	Maple Leaf Foods Inc.
Marilynn Boehm	Alberta Food Processors Association
Dr. David Chalack and Steve Allan	Agribusiness Advisory Committee of Calgary Economic Development
Colleen Biggs	TK Ranch
Susan Roberts	Alberta Food Matters
David Bishop and Monica Klaas	Alberta Seed Processors
Fanta Camara	VitalyTeas Ltd.
Dipash Kumar	Private Citizen
Chris Cook	Private Citizen
Robert Fernandez	Mansbach Advisory Group
Dennis McKnight	Alberta Food Cluster
Jim Smolik	Cargill Ltd.
Robert de Groot	Red Cup Distillery
Jon Sookocheff	Invest Medicine Hat
Perry Kinkaide	Alberta Council of Technologies Society
James Walper	Private Citizen
Tim Herman	Private Citizen
Joe Gendre	Private Citizen
Corwyn Kalyn	Private Citizen
Penny Fox	Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake Region
Annette Thiessen	Merikle Waters Paints & Quarters
Steve Mason	AgroMedia International Inc.
Allan Macaulay	Albertatrees.net
Bob 3PO	Private Citizen
Myles McIntosh	Private Citizen
Karen Macaulay	Private Citizen
George Edwards	Private Citizen
Marty Carpenter	Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence
Corey Keith	Keith & Associates
Robert Rogers	Private Citizen
Jay Mackenzie	Starfield Centre Magrath
Rod Shaigec	Private Citizen
Marcus Riedner	Happiness by the Acre
Sandi Checkel	Private Citizen
Linda Gonnet	Fort Macleod Community Aquaponic Greenhouse
Karen Hope	The Marketing Edge
Leeanne Willoughby	Private Citizen
Leonard Jubinville	Private Citizen

Individual	Organization/ Private Citizen
Jim Wiebe	Private Citizen
Dan Rose	Edmonton Economic Development Corporation
Kerry Grisley	Private Citizen
Doug Macaulay	Private Citizen
Darryl Martell	Private Citizen
Rory Koopmans	Private Citizen
Jim Wiebe	Private Citizen
Ed Sterenberg	Private Citizen
David Wozney	Private Citizen
Larry Chanasyk	Private Citizen
Imad Kaddoura	Awqaf Canada
Kristine Kowalchuk	Private Citizen
Joseph Simons	Private Citizen
Brent Williams	Municipal District of Acadia No. 34
Alex Robertson	Private Citizen
Dan Watson	Private Citizen
John Middel	Private Citizen
Sonja Myllymaki	Private Citizen
Jessie Radies	Private Citizen
Maria Bakardjieva	Private Citizen
Julie Ann Matheson	Private Citizen
Don Schmidt	Private Citizen
Wade Alston	Town of Magrath and Sustainable Agriculture Education Partnership
Jim Philpott	West Grow Farms Inc.
Geoff Stewart	Big Rig Craft Distillery Ltd.
Marlene Raasok	Private Citizen
Jacque Fenske	Private Citizen
Kimberly Borgel	Town of Killam
Barbara Engelbart McKenzie	Leduc-Nisku Economic Development Association
Astrid DesLandes	BioWise
Brent Croucher	SD Property Development Ltd.
Bobbi Beeson	The Cheesecake Café
Randy King	West Grow Farms Inc.
Francis A.K. Dear	Private Citizen
Gene Wesley	Community Futures Lac La Biche
Tom Monto	Private Citizen
Howie Borge	ALUS Canada
Jonathan Seib	Alberta Chambers of Commerce
Rob Gardner	Private Citizen
Janette McDonald	Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)
David Kowalek	Private Citizen
Rob Reynolds	Private Citizen
Terry Rock	Alberta Small Brewers Association
R. (Chick) Hurst	Private Citizen
Andrew Renaux	Leaf Ninjas Inc.
Rich Smith	Alberta Beef Producers

Appendix B: Oral Presentations to the Committee

Organization	Presenter	Date of Presentation
Edmonton Economic Development Corporation	Brad Ferguson, President and Chief Executive Officer	February 22, 2017
Mackenzie County	Hayley Gavin, Planner	February 22, 2017
City of Lethbridge	Trevor Lewington, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Lethbridge	February 22, 2017
Calgary Economic Development	Dr. David Chalack, Chair, Agribusiness Advisory Committee	February 22, 2017
Starfield Centre (Town of Magrath)	Wade Alston, Chief Administrative Officer	February 22, 2017
Alberta Council of Technologies	Paul Pryce, Director, Agriculture and Asia Relations	February 22, 2017
Olds College	Stuart Cullum, Chief Innovation Officer	February 22, 2017
Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta	Dr. Stanford Blade, Dean	February 22, 2017
Cereal Protein and Cellulose Program, University of Alberta	Dr. Lingyun Chen, Professor and Canada Research Chair	February 22, 2017
West Grow Farms	Randy King, Managing Partner	February 22, 2017
Sunhaven Farms	Dave Price, Director, Sunterra Group of Companies Ben Woolley, Vice-president, Sunterra Farms	February 22, 2017
Peace Gourmet Honey	Jean Coppens d'Eeckenbrugge, Owner	February 22, 2017
Medicine Hat Meat Traders	Greg Pahl, Owner	February 22, 2017
Sunora Foods	Steve Bank, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	February 22, 2017
Alberta Beef Producers	Tom Lynch-Staunton, Manager of Government Relations	February 23, 2017
Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association	Casey Vander Ploeg, Manager of Policy and Research	February 23, 2017
Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association	James Hargrave, Board Chair	February 23, 2017
SM5	Erna Ference, Chair, Alberta Chicken Producers	February 23, 2017
Awqaf Canada	Imad Kaddoura, President	February 23, 2017
Alberta Small Brewers Association	Terry Rock, Executive Director	February 23, 2017
Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association	Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza	February 23, 2017
Alberta Food Processors Association	Jerry Bigam, Board Member	February 23, 2017
Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund	Alan Hall, New Initiatives Manager	February 23, 2017
Alberta Food Cluster	Alan Hall, Director	February 23, 2017
Alberta Food Matters	Susan Roberts, Board Chair	February 23, 2017
BioComposites Group	Dan Madlung, President and Chief Executive Officer	February 23, 2017
BioWise	Astrid DesLandes, Founder	February 23, 2017
Organic Alberta	Dawn Boileau, Board Member	February 23, 2017
Big Rig Craft Distillery	Mike Beile, General Manager	February 23, 2017

Red Cup Distillery	Robert de Groot, Founder	February 23, 2017
Special Areas Board	Jordon Christianson, Chair	February 23, 2017
The Marketing Edge	Karen Hope, Principal	February 23, 2017

NOTES

¹ Alberta, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Annual Report, 2015-2016, [Edmonton: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 2016], p. 12.

² Ibid., p. 16.

³ Ibid., p. 12.

⁴ Ibid., p. 16.

⁵ Ibid., p. 17.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Alberta, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Highlights of the Alberta Economy 2017, available at http://www.albertacanada.com/files/albertacanada/SP-EH_highlightsABEconomyPresentation.pdf (accessed on March 23, 2017).

