



UPDATE FROM OTTAWA: ISSUES ON THE MOVE FOR CANADA'S PULSE INDUSTRY



By Greg Northey, Corporate Affairs
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There is always a sense of optimism at the start of the growing season across western Canada. While conditions vary from region to region, pulse growers are at work growing the quality Canadian peas, lentils, beans and chickpeas that will be enjoyed whole or as ingredients in products here in Canada and in 130 markets around the world. And the team at Pulse Canada is working on your behalf to maintain, open and develop high-value markets for Canadian pulses and pulse ingredients.

A big part of our efforts involves working with the federal government to advance a number of files of importance to pulse growers.

This includes ensuring important markets for pulses are functioning for Canadian growers and exporters. A recent major win for our pulse industry was India's announcement to exempt Canada from the 4x penalty in lieu of Methyl Bromide fumigation until it permanently recognizes Canada's systems approach for pulses. This move is something that Pulse Canada has long advocated for, and it shows a willingness from India to work toward strengthening our trading relationship.

In that spirit, we were pleased when the federal government recently re-launched the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations and committed to prioritizing concluding an Early Progress Trade Agreement, sometimes referred to as an 'Early Harvest Agreement'. In an Early Harvest Agreement, both sides look for areas of agreement that could be finalized or 'harvested' in advance of a comprehensive free-trade agreement. With support from the pulse industry, the Canadian government has been clear that increasing access and stability for Canadian pulses must be on the table for such an agreement to be reached. We will continue to work to ensure the government builds on this positive momentum by finalizing an agreement that recognizes the quality and safety of Canadian pulses. At the same time, we will push to have the quantitative restrictions in place on Canadian peas removed so that Canada can once again serve the Indian market. This announcement was a step in the right direction, and growers can rest

assured we will continue to work toward a Canada-India agreement that benefits the Canadian pulse industry by addressing all major outstanding issues.

Pulse growers know that while market access is an important piece of the equation, a fully functioning supply chain is needed for our industry to capitalize. With 85% of pulses being exported, and 30% of pulses exported via container, our industry pays very close attention to how Canada's supply chain is functioning. The recent labour disruption at CP is proof our system is vulnerable. We were pleased when the Government of Canada recently delivered on two key asks of the pulse industry by establishing a task force to address supply-chain disruptions and enabling the Competition Bureau to investigate potential market-power abuse in the ocean-shipping market. While we look forward to the task force identifying immediate solutions to our containerized supply chain capacity constraints, all our eggs cannot be in one basket. That is why we have also begun to develop a suite of policy and legislative solutions to strengthen Canada's access to container capacity over the long term. With our partners, we have undertaken work to assess the economic impact on Canadian exporters and importers of the container supply chain disruptions and to identify recommendations for how Canada can make important adjustments to our legislative environment. The findings of our report will be key in holding the government's feet to the fire to help develop solutions that allow Canada's pulse industry to maintain



Bulk pulses sold at a market in India are labelled with their country of origin. Photo: Greg Stamp.

our reputation as a reliable global supplier of pulses and pulse ingredients.

Rounding out the top issues in Ottawa is the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's (PMRA) ongoing transformation. Without public confidence, our food system simply doesn't function. That is why Pulse Canada supports the PMRA in its transformation objectives to continue to protect human health and the environment. It was good to see the recent announcement about increasing the use of real-world data through a national water-monitoring program. This will ensure the review of pest control products are not based on conservative

estimates and are reflective of the actual risk the products may pose. That said, this process must never allow politics to get the better of it. That is why Canada's pulse industry, along with our colleagues across other commodities, believe the Pest Control Products Act is fit for purpose—and all effort should be made by the Government and PMRA to achieve its important objectives without opening the act. That is the message we are taking to parliamentarians and officials on behalf of our members, and we will continue to provide updates as this important process unfolds.

In closing, growers will notice that the Keep it Clean 2022 Product

Advisory is out. Pulse Canada, in collaboration with our colleagues in the cereals and canola sectors, is proud to deliver this important resource to growers aimed at keeping export markets open. If you have questions or want to know more, be sure to get in touch with your grain buyer or with us directly here at Pulse Canada. A copy of the 2022 Advisory is included in this edition of *Pulse Crop News* and can be found anytime online at keepitclean.ca.

As always, if you have questions on any of the initiatives being undertaken on your behalf, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at gnothey@pulsecanada.com.