

October 25, 2010

Alberta wins trade challenge on vegetable oil products

Trade panel tells Ontario to open up access for Alberta producers

Edmonton... Alberta has won a long-standing trade dispute with Ontario over protectionist policies that for years have restricted Alberta vegetable oil producers and refiners from selling in Ontario.

A panel under the *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT) determined that Ontario regulations restricting the sale of products that blend vegetable oil with dairy ingredients are a barrier to interprovincial trade.

“It has been a long fight but one that was worth fighting,” said Iris Evans, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations. “For too long Ontario has maintained these restrictions that are contrary to its domestic trade obligations and we are pleased the panel has ruled in our favour.”

Alberta launched the challenge in March 2010, and was supported by British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The AIT panel has given Ontario until February 1, 2011 to comply by ensuring that its policies are consistent with the agreement. If Ontario remains in breach of the AIT it could face a monetary penalty of up to \$5 million.

It is estimated that access to Ontario could create a market of approximately \$225 million within Canada for dairy-vegetable oil blends. Common vegetable oils include canola, sunflower and soya and are often used to create blends of margarine and butter and blended drinks such as soymilk.

“Oilseed production in Alberta is a significant and important part of our agriculture sector,” said Jack Hayden, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. “This ruling provides an opportunity for both our producers and our processing industry as we regain access to the Ontario market.”

The AIT came into effect on July 1, 1995 to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers to the free movement of people, goods, services, and investments within Canada and to establish an open, efficient, and stable domestic market. Through the AIT, governments work to remove existing interprovincial trade barriers, prevent the establishment of new barriers, and harmonize interprovincial standards.

The Alberta government has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. An important part of

The Way Forward is maintaining support for programs and services Albertans need most, such as health care, education and safe and vibrant communities. For more information on the plan visit Alberta.ca.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Mike Deising

Communications

International and Intergovernmental

Relations

780-422-2524

Ag Media Line

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

780-422-1005

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Agriculture and Rural Development Home Page](#) | [International and Intergovernmental Relations Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2010 Government of Alberta

