

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

MAY - 4 2016

Quote: 220189

Mr. Scott Horner
President
Canadian Seed Trade Association
2039 Robertson Road, Suite 505
Ottawa, Ontario K2H 8R2

Dear Mr. Horner:

Thank you for your letter, further to our meeting on February 24, 2016, in which you share additional information about the Canadian Seed Trade Association's (CSTA) work.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) fully appreciates the CSTA's role in fostering and supporting innovation, ensuring a sustainable future for cropping production systems, and ensuring international market access for seed and grain produced in Canada. I would also like to commend the Association for working collaboratively with members of the forage value chain to develop the coexistence plan for alfalfa hay in Eastern Canada. These efforts have helped ensure that growers will be able to take advantage of innovative tools and pursue new opportunities while continuing to access existing markets. I am also encouraged by the CSTA's commitment to the creation of a coexistence plan for alfalfa hay in Western Canada.

The industry is evolving, and the pace of innovation is increasing with new technology and breeding techniques. AAFC supports science-based decision making and is committed to working with industry and our trading partners to ensure that the development of policies and regulations is based on sound science.

The seed industry is a hotbed for innovation, and it is the foundation for many of the high-quality, high-value products grown in Canada. I would encourage the sector to continue to support innovation, competitiveness, and environmental stewardship in Canada and abroad.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP

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