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CUSMA Mitigation Update

Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) have been working with provincial boards and technical staff to develop a multi-pronged mitigation package for both the CPTPP and the CUSMA (new NAFTA) agreements. As well, the **Mitigation Working Group**, set up by the federal government, is meeting for the first time on December 14. It includes 14 producer representatives, 14 processor representatives and also involves DFC, AAFC, the CDC and the national processor association.

The mitigation package assembled by DFC and provincial representatives will form the basis of what producer representatives bring to the working group table. DFC is aligned with the processors on overlapping portions of our mitigation proposal. AAFC have been actively promoting their methodology for calculating the industry harm of both trade deals.

While elected politicians may be seeking dairy producer feedback on the government impact calculations and forms of compensation, DFNS feels that the federal **Mitigation Working Group** needs to complete their work and report, which is due in January 2019. Having a variety of viewpoints, calculations and individual assessments floating around is a recipe for government inaction, choosing the least cost mitigation path and is politically-driven.

These two deals have impacted your farm, your family, your workers and your rural community. Producers should continue to reiterate our dissatisfaction surrounding recent trade concessions, elected officials must be prepared to accept a robust and effective mitigation package put forward from within the industry. It is more important now than ever to keep the pressure on government; the federal budget will likely be tabled in the coming months, 2019 will also be an election year so government needs to know we will make this an election issue!

The **Mitigation Working Group** is actively pursuing a national plan and this is where the focus should remain. We will keep you updated on the progress of this important work.