



PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE & DISTRICT CHAMBER

September 5, 2025

Honorable Premiere Wab Kinew
Honorable Ron Kostyshyn – Minister of Agriculture
Honorable Jamie Moses Minister of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation

Re: Urgent Action Required on Canola Tariffs and New Market Opportunities

On behalf of the Portage la Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the impact of ongoing canola tariffs on Manitoba's business and agricultural community. This issue has reached a critical point, and we urge the Government of Manitoba to take immediate and decisive action. Canola is one of Manitoba's most important crops, supporting not only our farmers but also our processors, exporters, transportation sector, and the many businesses and workers connected to this vital supply chain. The current tariffs are putting immense pressure on producers and undermining competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. The ripple effect of these barriers is being felt across our province, threatening jobs, incomes, and the long-term viability of businesses that depend on this sector. We are calling on your government to:

1. **Advocate strongly** with the federal government and international partners for the removal of these harmful tariffs.
2. **Support new opportunities for canola** by pressing the federal government to require a minimum bio-fuel blend in aviation fuel. Many countries around the world have recently approved the commercial use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), an industry still in its infancy. Manitoba has a chance to be a leader, particularly if the province helps influence Azure's investment decision to locate here. This could not only open new domestic markets for canola but also create access to emerging international SAF markets, expanding the economic impact far beyond what was originally envisioned.
3. **Expand long-term strategies** by increasing provincial support for market diversification. This includes promoting Manitoba-grown canola in alternate international markets beyond the U.S. and China, which are currently limited by tariffs, and developing new domestic uses. As an example, in 2005, when the U.S. began blending ethanol into gasoline, nearly 45% of U.S. corn production shifted into ethanol, creating a massive new market for American farmers. Manitoba could play a similar role in ensuring canola has robust domestic applications that shield producers from global market volatility.

The Chamber and our members are committed to working with government at all levels to protect and advance the economic well-being of our province. However, the urgency of this situation requires leadership and action now. Manitoba cannot afford to see one of its cornerstone industries weakened by trade barriers, especially when opportunities exist to expand and diversify markets through innovation and forward-looking policy. We respectfully request a timely response outlining what steps the provincial government will take to address this matter and support Manitoba's canola industry. Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent issue. Sincerely,

Stefanie Dunn
Executive Director
Portage la Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce
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