



## **New Markets Open for Canadian Sheep Products in Mexico**

October 31, 2014 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) is pleased to announce that, thanks to the efforts of the Market Access Secretariat (MAS), Canadian sheep and goat meat, offal and viscera from animals without any age restriction can now be shipped to Mexico. Prior to today's announcement, there were restrictions on these products that limited Canada's ability to export mutton to that country.

Early in 2014, the Canadian Sheep Federation filed a request with MAS to negotiate a new export certificate with Mexico that would allow the export of a wider range of Canadian sheep products to that country. MAS is industry's contact with the Federal Market Access Team, a portfolio which includes Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) that takes a collaborative approach to advance interests for Canadian agriculture abroad. The CSF worked with MAS by providing supporting statistics to the negotiations and prioritizing the market's importance to the Canadian sheep industry. Today's announcement exemplifies how successful collaboration between industry and government can create new international market opportunities and help grow the industry.

“We are pleased with the announcement,” says Phil Kolodychuk, Chairman of the Canadian Sheep Federation, “this opportunity increases the value of mature sheep and lends to increased profitability for Canadian sheep producers”. In 2013, the total value of Canadian mutton exports was estimated to be worth slightly over \$800,000. Canadian exporters now have an immediate opportunity to export \$12.5 million worth of mutton to Mexico, a market value that could grow exponentially over time. Interested exporters should contact their [Regional Canadian Food Inspection Agency office](#) for more information and to obtain an export certificate.

The CSF is a national not-for-profit organization that represents the interests of sheep and lamb producers across Canada with a mission to further the viability, expansion and prosperity of the



Canadian sheep and wool industries. For more information about the CSF, visit our website at [www.cansheep.ca](http://www.cansheep.ca), or give us a call at 888.684.7739.

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