

GRAIN GROWERS
OF CANADA



LES PRODUCTEURS
DE GRAINS DU CANADA

Grain Growers of Canada
Suite 201, #8 York Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 5S6
Ph: (613) 233-9954
Fax: (613) 236-3590
www.ggc-pgc.ca

June 4, 2009

Michael Ignatieff
Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Ignatieff,

RE: Liberal Party Position on Trade

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for your leadership in moving the Liberal Party in a more progressive direction on both bi-lateral and multi-lateral trade negotiations.

The Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) represents approximately 80,000 Canadian grain, oilseed and pulse producers, most of whom are reliant on the exports of agriculture and agri-food products. Our member organizations are united in the value of trade and access to export markets and in the need for a better international trading environment. Each year, foreign agricultural subsidies and export tariffs cost Canadian farmers up to \$2 billion dollars. Additionally, we are faced with technical trade barriers, customs procedures and other non-tariff trade barriers.

Historically, the Liberal Party of Canada has been a strong supporter of free trade. It was Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier who first campaigned on the principle of reciprocity with the United States.

As you wrote in your recent book *True Patriot Love*, “[Well-governed] countries don’t protect their markets against global competition; they invest in their own people’s vision and enterprise so they can gain footholds in other people’s markets.”

That is precisely what Canada needs to do to secure a prosperous future for Canadian farmers.

However, we know that increased trade is a two-way street and people in developing countries also need the opportunity to grow their economies and increase their standard of living.

The Liberal Party has a large constituent base interested in trade issues and so we encourage you and your Party to be engaged actively in the trade files to ensure that a wide range of views and interests are heard.

Canadian farmers encourage you to continue to advance Liberal Party policy towards freer trade and further to support the EU-Canada free trade negotiations.

I trust you will find the advice of the Grain Growers of Canada helpful and look forward to working with you to secure a better future for Canada's farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray rectangular background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "D. Robertson".

Doug Robertson
President
Grain Growers of Canada

Cc: Liberal Members of Agricultural and Trade Committees