

We are in it together – Update on COVID-19 and the canola supply chain

April 8, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious public health challenge for every country, every industry and every family. Like all those in affected areas, our industry is adapting to this tough situation as it evolves.

The health and safety of people is a top priority for our industry. We also recognize that we have a key role in providing food for people and animals in Canada and around the world. Operations at all parts of the value chain are adapting their practices to protect the health of their people while maintaining our ability to continue producing, processing and delivering canola seed, oil and meal. With the 2020 planting season set to start in just a few short weeks, we're focused on making sure our farmers and supply chains can do what's required to produce another high quality crop this year.

At this time, the Canadian canola value chain expects to continue providing canola to trade partners all over the world. While necessary operational adjustments have reduced capacity in some areas, we expect to continue supplying canola to our customers.

In Canada, governments have mandated the closure of some businesses. However; all governments at the national and subnational level want the agri-food system operating—and this includes our canola sector. For example the Government of Canada's department for Public Safety has listed the agri-food sector as an Essential Service that should remain operating. This *Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada during the COVID-19 Pandemic* can be found here:

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrt/crtcl-nfrstrctr/esf-sfe-en.aspx>

This is an unprecedented situation for all of us. In this rapidly changing environment, it's more important than ever to maintain regular communication with our trade partners and our governments. We strongly believe this is the time for us to work together more closely, as it's the best way to weather difficulties and continue providing a sustainable supply of canola. Should you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Everson,
President of Canola Council of Canada
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