

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD**



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

**COMITÉ PERMANENT DE
L'AGRICULTURE ET DE
L'AGROALIMENTAIRE**

Ottawa, Friday, October 6, 2017

The Hon. Navdeep Singh Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

Dear Mr. Bains,

On June 9, 2016, I sent you and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food a letter urging you to introduce as quickly as possible a program comparable to the system in place under the U.S. *Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act* (PACA) that protects fruit and vegetable growers and suppliers in the event of purchaser bankruptcy.

On June 23, 2017, I sent you a second letter seeking clarifications as to which department would be responsible for introducing such a program. Since I have not received a response, the Committee has asked me to contact you again to inquire on the status of developing such a financial protection program for vegetable growers and whether we could expect it to be introduced in the near future.

As you know, on October 1, 2014, the U.S. removed preferred access for Canadian vegetable growers to PACA programs given the lack of similar financial protections in Canada. Establishing a payment protection mechanism equivalent to the system under PACA would restore Canada's preferred status in the U.S. market. Urgent action is needed given how extremely important this issue is to Canada's horticultural industry.

On behalf of the Committee, I look forward to your response addressing our concerns.

Yours sincerely,
Patrice Finnigan, MP
Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

Encl.: Letters of June 9, 2016, and June 23, 2017
cc: Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food