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**national farmers union**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NFU URGES ACTION ON LIMITING DAIRY INGREDIENT IMPORTS**

The federal government should move immediately to close a legal loophole allowing increased imports of dairy protein ingredients, according to Jan Slomp, a dairy farmer from Rimbey, Alberta and NFU Alberta Coordinator.

In a letter to Chuck Strahl, newly-appointed Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Slomp says a recent ruling by the Federal Court of Canada has potentially serious implications for the stability of the dairy sector, and the supply-management system as a whole.

The court ruling stated that Canada does not have the right to limit imports of subsidized dairy ingredients. In its decision, the court backed the contention of the Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) that it was more precise to classify the milk protein product in question as “protein substances” instead of “natural milk constituents.” According to the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC), the inability to limit such imports could mean hundreds of millions of dollars in losses to Canadian dairy farmers as a result of the loss of that portion of their domestic market.

Slomp said it is particularly galling that an unelected trade negotiating body like CITT is working to eliminate Canada’s legitimate right to limit imports.

He pointed out that the supply-managed sector is one of the few bright spots in agriculture, where farmers are able to earn sufficient returns from the marketplace. “During the last Parliamentary session, a resolution in support of supply management was passed unanimously by members of the House of Commons,” Slomp concluded. “The new government must follow through on that commitment by blocking the loophole which threatens to compromise the foundation of the supply management system. To do otherwise is to condemn dairy farmers to the possibility of a lingering ‘death by a thousand cuts’.”

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