



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **CANADA AND SOUTH KOREA TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON ACCESS FOR CANADIAN BEEF**

*Calgary, Alberta, October 31, 2008 –*

The Canada Beef Export Federation welcomes the news that technical market access negotiations between Canada and South Korea for Canadian beef are set to resume on Monday, November 3, 2008. According to Korean industry media reports, the Korean Government intends to offer Canada access for all edible beef products (boneless, bone-in and offal) derived from cattle less than 30 months of age based on OIE's Controlled Risk BSE categorization of Canada.

"This would represent commercially viable access to the Korean market for the Canadian beef and veal industry," says Ted Haney, President of the Canada Beef Export Federation. "This would be a very welcome and long-awaited development, representing great value to Canadian cattle producers.

"At the same time, it is important to keep in mind that, for Controlled Risk BSE countries, the OIE allows for trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle of all ages subject to standard SRM removal – including Canada. This is full trade normalization and this is our goal in Korea," he says.

Talks between the two countries last took place in November 2007, at which time Canada had officially completed Stage 5 of Korea's eight-stage Risk Assessment Review – and the first round of negotiations in Stage 6. Repeated efforts by Canada to re-start negotiations failed, with the Korean Government focussing on reaching agreement with the US on access for American beef.

"Canadian beef has not been shipped to the Korean market since 2003," says Haney. "At that time Korea was becoming a very important market for Canada with annual exports approaching the \$60 million level."

In 2007, South Korea imported over 256,000 tonnes of beef – a volume that is expected to grow to over 400,000 by 2015. Prior to 2003, South Korea was Canada's third-largest export market outside of the US.

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