

REPORT OF THE GROCERY SECTOR CODE OF CONDUCT INTERIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS – JULY 2024

The Grocery Sector Code of Conduct Interim Board of Directors is pleased to inform the FPT Agriculture and Agri-food Ministers that we have the commitment of all the major grocers to support the Grocery Code of Conduct. This includes all the national grocers and the many regional and local independent grocers from coast to coast. In addition, we have the commitment of all key suppliers, large and small, in the country's food supply chain.

While there is still much work to be done, including the development of the processes required to ensure an efficient and effective implementation, the establishment of an operating office, the hiring of an adjudicator, industry education, and much more, we are delighted to report that all stakeholders have expressed their desire and their commitment to assist and support the implementation of a voluntary industry-led Code in Canada. The commitment of the major grocers underscores the importance of a fully inclusive, voluntary Code developed and managed by stakeholders across the entire grocery supply chain.

We extend our gratitude to the Industry Working Group whose work paved the way for broader industry support and improved cooperation across the grocery supply chain. We also acknowledge the hard work and support of Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence A. MacAulay, and Quebec Minister of Agriculture, André Lamontagne, as well as the many dedicated ministry employees who supported the Interim Board' work over the last three years.

This has been a long process, but we are now able to move forward to implementation which we believe will strengthen the relationship between all stakeholders involved and continue to provide Canadians with a healthy and robust food supply chain. Our goal remains for the Code to be implemented by June 2025. However, to do so and to ensure all processes and tasks are undertaken in a timely fashion, the Interim Board reiterates its funding request which it hopes will be approved by the FPT Ministers. The funding in question will allow the Interim Board to put in place the necessary building blocks before it can be in a position to recruit members and generate the funds required to be self-sustainable.

We thank you again for your ongoing support and for the trust you have shown throughout the many years to assist the industry in developing a voluntary industry-led collaborative Grocery Code of Conduct.

Sincerely,

Interim Board of Directors

Members

Food, Health & Consumer Products of Canada
Michael Graydon – Chair of the Interim Board

Retail Council of Canada
Diane J. Brisebois – Vice Chair of the Interim Board

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec
Patrice Léger Bourgoïn

Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Scott Ross

Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers
Gary Sands

Canadian Produce Marketing Association
Ron Lemaire

Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec
Sylvie Cloutier

Dairy Processors Association of Canada
Mathieu Frigon

Food Producers of Canada
Denise Allen

Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec
Stéphanie Levasseur