

February 2, 2021

Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Re: Bill C-208

Dear Member of Parliament,

On behalf of the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA), I write to you today to express our support for Bill C-208, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (transfer of small business or family farm or fishing corporation) to be passed at Second Reading and moved for further study at the Standing Committee on Finance.

CCGA represents 43,000 canola farmers from Ontario to British Columbia on national and international issues, policies, and programs that impact farm profitability. The canola industry is a strong contributor to Canada. It has been the number one source of farm revenue from crops for over a decade, contributes \$26.7 billion to the economy annually and provides for 250,000 Canadian jobs.

Bill C-208 seeks to allow the transfer of small businesses, family farms, and fishing corporations to have the same tax rate when selling to a family member as when selling to a third party. As it stands now, it costs a farmer more to sell their business to a family member, than a third party.

CCGA views this bill as an opportunity to level the playing field, giving farmers equal opportunity to pass their businesses to the next generation while not compromising their retirement savings, and to build on the success and longevity of Canadian farm operations. As such we would welcome Bill C-208 be moved to the committee stage for detailed study and analysis.

Continuity of farms are an integral part of maintaining Canada's strong food systems, our food security, and our ability to feed the world. According to a recent study by the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council (CAHRC), 39% of grains and oilseed farmers are expected to retire over the next 10 years.¹ Now is the time to make the changes necessary to help facilitate smooth farm transfers and keep family farms thriving.

CCGA encourages you to support this legislation and to help Canadian farmers keep the results of their lifetime work in their family, and contribute to lasting, thriving Canadian farms.

¹ Report. How Labour Challenges Will Shape the Future of the 'Grain and Oilseed' Industry: Agriculture Forecast to 2029. Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council. 2019. <https://cahrc-ccrha.ca/programs/agrilmi/commodity-data/grain-and-oilseed>

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Dave Carey,
Vice President, Government and Industry Relations
Canadian Canola Growers Association

CC: Gayle McLaughlin, Manager, Government and Industry Relations, CCGA