

## The Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec welcomes Food Sovereignty Policy

**Longueuil, May 16, 2013/CNW** – The Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec (FPLQ) welcomes the Quebec government's Food Sovereignty Policy. In the opinion of FPLQ Chairman Bruno Letendre, the Quebec dairy industry, which is recognized for its distinctive products and its sustainable contribution to the economies of Quebec and its regions is well aligned with the focus of the policy.

The FPLQ is pleased that the policy reaffirms the Government of Quebec's support for our marketing and supply management tools. In the current context, this support is more necessary than ever so that producers can earn a fair income from the market, without depending on subsidies. **"We are relying on the Government to ensure that supply management remains intact in the trade negotiations currently under way and that the provisions of the agreements, if ratified, are consistent with the new policy and the unanimous motion voted by the National Assembly in February 2013,"** said Bruno Letendre. **"Supply management is a fair farming model that fosters food sovereignty and guarantees consumers a supply of high-quality local products. Furthermore, governments and society as a whole benefit from the economic and tax benefits generated by the sector,"** he added.

The Quebec milk production industry provides 60,000 jobs, contributes \$5.1 billion to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and generates tax benefits of \$1.18 billion to the three levels of government. Quebec has become Canada's largest yoghurt producer (72% of Canadian yoghurt production) and leading cheese manufacturer in both mass and niche markets (more than 370 cheese varieties and 60% of fine cheeses made in Canada). The number of small-scale cheese makers has grown significantly since 2000, increasing by nearly 50%, from 34 to 51. Quebec is now also the leading organic milk producer in Canada, responsible for 37 million litres of milk annually, or 38% of overall Canadian production.

Finally, the FPLQ is satisfied that the measures announced in the policy will encourage government and public agencies to purchase Quebec products. This is consistent with a request made by the Federation. **"This should enable Quebec producers and processors to have better access to these markets which represent a large share of consumer spending,"** concluded Bruno Letendre.

### About the FPLQ

The Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec speaks for the province's 13,000 milk producers and 6,100 dairy farms. Quebec dairy farmers produce nearly 3 billion litres of milk annually and generate farm cash receipts exceeding \$2 billion.

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