



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

45th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

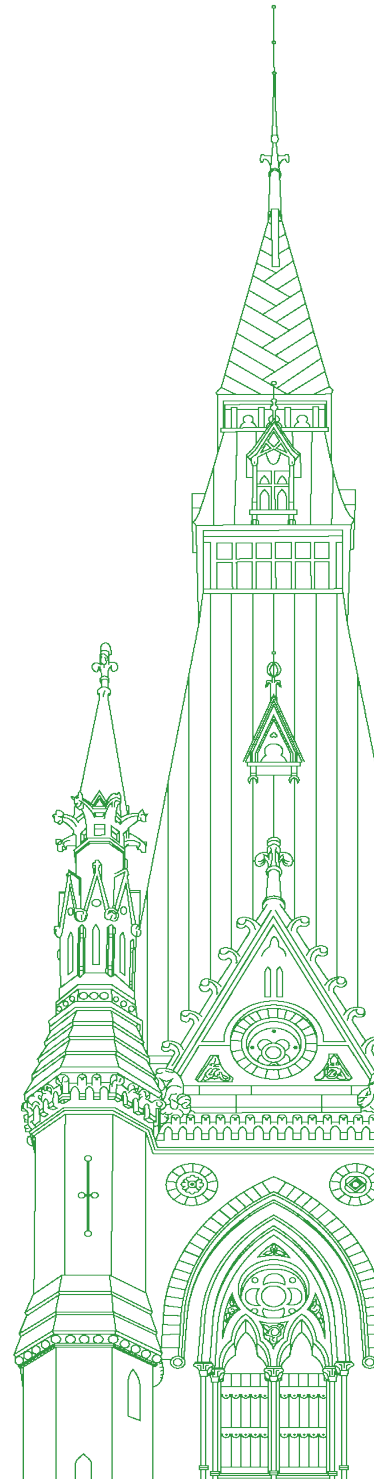
Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

EVIDENCE

NUMBER 044

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Chair: Michael Coteau



Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

• (1535)

[English]

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow (Foothills, CPC)): I call this meeting to order.

We had to make some adjustments to the witness list. We had a couple of cancellations, so we've shuffled some things around. To our benefit, this gives us more time with the witnesses we have with us today. We've had to move Mr. Lee, I believe, to the second hour, so that may change some things a little.

Thank you to the witnesses who have joined us here today.

I will get to the introductions in a moment. Before I do that, it behooves me to welcome the new members of the agriculture committee.

Daniel, welcome. Congratulations on the position of parliamentary secretary. We look forward to working with you.

We also have Sean. Mr. Casey is joining us as a new permanent member. Our newest returner is Tim. He is sort of back, and we'll see how long he wants to spend with us. It's good to see him back. Mr. Perron is with us today. This is great. The all-star team is available. He is now a permanent member. Mr. Bonk is also now a permanent member of the committee. It's a great group of people. We all work very well together, so I look forward to working with this group.

Unfortunately, our chair couldn't be with us today, but I'm happy to preside over this meeting.

Welcome to our meeting of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food.

For today's meeting, there are some housekeeping messages for our witnesses.

This meeting is taking place in a hybrid format pursuant to the Standing Orders. Members are attending in person in the room and remotely on Zoom.

Before I continue, I ask that all in-person participants consult the guidelines and remember about your earpieces being as far away from the microphone as possible to protect our interpreters.

For all witnesses who are with us today, please wait until I recognize you by name to ensure that you are asked questions directly by members, or asked to give your opening comments.

For those participating by video conference, click on the microphone icon to activate your mic, and please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Ms. Beardsley, I know you've been with us before, but at the bottom of your screen, you can select the appropriate language channel you prefer: floor, English or French.

For those in the room, most of you know about the earpieces.

Daniel, I think you're probably getting pretty used to everything around here now.

I would like to remind witnesses that committee members might ask questions in either English or French. If you need interpretation, or if you're having an issue with your earpiece, please let us know. We want to make sure that you understand the question and can provide a good answer. I remind you that all comments are to be addressed through the chair.

Members, we have a speaking list, so I think we're all good to go.

Now I would like to introduce the opening panel with us today as we continue the study on food security in the face of global instability.

We have the chair and vice-chair of the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick. Mr. Dijkstra is the chair and Mr. Matheson is the vice-chair. From Food Banks Canada, we have Ms. Beardsley, the chief executive officer, via video conference.

Welcome, and thank you very much for being with us. Each of you will be given up to five minutes for your opening statements. Afterwards, there will be questions from members of the committee.

We'll start with the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick.

You have five minutes. Please go ahead.

Wietze Dykstra (Chair, Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My name is Wietze Dykstra. I'll do a short introduction, as you did already, but I'm the current chair of the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick. I operate a dairy farm, milking about 170 cows, with my family, in western New Brunswick. I am joined today, as you already mentioned, by Gilbert Matheson, who is also a member of the board at the Dairy Farmers of Canada and a fellow farmer from New Brunswick. Thank you for inviting us to contribute the dairy farmers' perspective to this important study on food security.

At a time of significant economic and geopolitical uncertainty, strengthening the security and resilience of Canada's food supply has never been more important. Canada's dairy sector is a critical part of this food supply. Dairy farmers appreciate the government's effort to advance Canada's national food security strategy, and welcome its recognition that our system of supply management is fundamental to Canada's self-sufficiency for dairy, ag and poultry products at stable prices, contributing to Canada's rural vitality and food sovereignty.

As the food security strategy suggests, supply management is a key component of Canada's national food security. It is, therefore, vital that government maintains its commitment to keep supply management and any dairy concessions off the table in international trade negotiations, including those with the U.S.

We are here today as dairy farmers who are proud to contribute to Canada's domestic food supply. Today, we are asking that the government investigate opportunities to invest in dairy processing infrastructure and to remove barriers for small to medium processors in rural areas. Furthermore, we encourage government to consider support for new start-ups navigating processing regulations.

I will now pass it over to Gilbert to expand on these requests.

Gilbert Matheson (Vice Chair, Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick): Thank you.

I would like to highlight dairy farmers' support for several other important elements of the strategy.

Dairy farmers strongly support the strategy's objective to process more food domestically. In the dairy sector, much of our processing infrastructure across the country is more than 50 years old. Modern ingredient plants could make a wide range of products to meet our customers' evolving needs. Unfortunately, the costs associated with building or upgrading a dairy processing facility are extremely high.

The maritime provinces have limitations to processing capacity. The lack of urban centres creates distribution challenges that limit small and medium-scale dairy processing. As a result, a significant portion of the region's milk must be transported out of the region for processing.

To help overcome these challenges, we recommend that the government investigate programs that encourage rural regions to develop multitenant regional dairy processing hubs. Common infrastructure could support milk receiving, pasteurization, refrigeration and distribution. Product-specific modules could be added or removed by local processors and entrepreneurs. Such a model could lower barriers to entry, support locally produced dairy products and create additional opportunities to process more of the region's milk closer to where it's produced.

It goes without saying that any government funding for value-added processing more broadly could help stimulate the necessary investment which will help the industry for the future and bolster Canadian food security.

In addition to its focus on domestic processing, we also appreciate the strategy's commitment to accelerating approvals for seeds, fertilizers, feed, and veterinary biologics. Canada faces a shortage

of such products compared to its competitors, and dairy farmers are eager to continue working with government and other stakeholders to improve access to these critical inputs.

Finally, while dairy farmers appreciate the introduction of immediate expensing for manufacturing and processing buildings, we strongly encourage government to expand this to all agricultural buildings. Removing tax-related barriers will enable farmers to modernize operations, adapt innovative technologies, adapt to changing requirements and consumer expectations, and scale production to meet growing demand.

Canada has farmers, processors, resources and expertise needed to maintain a resilient domestic food system. Protecting our production capacity is not only an agricultural priority; it's an investment in Canada's long-term economic resilience and food security.

In closing, we would like to recognize the important perspective of our food bank colleagues appearing before the committee today. In New Brunswick, dairy farmers are proud to partner with Feed New Brunswick to support people in our communities. Food security requires all parts of our food system to work together.

Thank you.

● (1540)

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much. You're right on time. Well done. You got Ms. Beardsley off to a good start, with a good smile.

Now we'll turn it over to Ms. Beardsley from Food Banks Canada, please, for five minutes.

Kirstin Beardsley (Chief Executive Officer, Food Banks Canada):

Thank you, Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Kirstin Beardsley. I'm the chief executive officer of Food Banks Canada. I represent a network of more than 5,500 food banks, in every province and territory.

Today, one in four Canadians experiences food insecurity, and nearly 2.2 million people turn to a food bank every month. Our polling found that 43% of Canadians reported financial stress this July, with food costs as the largest driver. Global instability did not create this crisis, but it is accelerating it. Climate disasters, global conflict and trade instability with our largest trading partner are reminders that external shocks move quickly through the supply chains and onto Canadian grocery bills.

The central challenge is not that Canada lacks food, producers or demand. It is that we do not have enough coordinated infrastructure to process, store and move Canadian food from regions with surplus to communities facing shortages. As a result, food grown here is often processed elsewhere. Usable surplus is lost and remote northern, coastal and indigenous communities pay disproportionately more. Food infrastructure is therefore a question of national resilience as well as affordability.

Households and individual food banks cannot control these global pressures. What Canada can control is whether our food system has enough capacity to absorb disruptions before they reach the plate. What Canada needs is a coordinated national network that can recover more domestic food, add processing and cold storage capacity and move supply efficiently between regions. Such a network would reduce food waste, strengthen regional resilience and help prevent disruptions from becoming empty shelves or unaffordable food.

Food Banks Canada welcomes the national food security strategy and its \$3.2 billion in investments, particularly its recognition of food hubs, including community food infrastructure as core infrastructure.

The good news is that this coordinated national network already exists. Food banks already function as essential infrastructure within Canada's food system. We purchase, recover, store, process and transport food nationally. More than a quarter of what we distribute is now purchased rather than donated. Across the food bank network, nearly \$400 million in capital projects are planned or under way.

Food Banks Canada invested \$24 million last year, close to \$6 million in refrigeration in food banks since 2022 and nearly \$9 million more in northern infrastructure, the same regions where a trucking disruption or price spike hits the hardest and fastest. A major strength of the food bank network lies within its established links to rural, remote and northern communities. In a country as large as Canada, reducing costs can come in large part through creating efficient supply chains to get food into the most remote areas.

The Leamington Regional Food Hub and Harvest Manitoba show this model working in practice. In Atlantic Canada, a pilot distribution model has already achieved lower landed food costs than individual organizations could achieve alone. These are not proposals built on hope. They are extensions of infrastructure that the food bank network has already proven can work.

In our pre-budget submission, Food Banks Canada asked the government to dedicate up to \$5 million of the food-link fund to closing these infrastructure gaps in the food bank network. The investment would build a hub and spoke network of large regional

hubs connected to smaller satellite hubs, creating shared capacity to recover, process, store and transport food across regions, instead of duplicating small-scale capacity.

Our sector has shovel-ready proposals in Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec and Atlantic Canada. Each addresses a distinct regional gap: for example, among others, recovery capacity in southwestern Ontario; cold chain infrastructure in Quebec's Montérégie and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean regions; and a permanent distribution hub anchoring Atlantic Canada's food bank network.

Food banks bring national reach into every community, including those that are hardest to serve; established logistics relationships across rail, trucking and air; and a data-backed equity model that routes food where the need is highest, not simply to where storage capacity already exists.

Canada has the food, the producers and the demand. What it lacks is enough coordinated infrastructure to process, store and move food where it's needed before global disruptions reach Canadian plates. Food banks already have the national reach, the logistics, relationships, expertise and the shovel-ready projects to close that gap. With federal investment through the food-link fund, we are ready to build that resilience now.

● (1545)

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Ms. Beardsley, and thank you for your time.

Colleagues, before we go to the questions, we have a bit of housekeeping to deal with. We can leave it until the end of the second hour or we can do it at the end of this hour, and then we may finish a bit early in the second hour. Is there any preference on when we do it? It would take about five minutes.

Do you want to leave it to the very end?

Marianne Dandurand (Compton—Stanstead, Lib.): Yes, leave it to the very end.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): That's perfect.

We will carry on. We now have the Conservatives for six minutes.

Mr. Bragdon, please go ahead.

Richard Bragdon (Tobique—Mactaquac, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's good to be here today.

Thank you to our witnesses who shared their testimony today. It's always good to welcome fellow New Brunswickers here to the nation's capital. We know these gentlemen quite well.

Thank you for the great work you do in providing food security, much-needed food security, for our people and our citizens.

Mr. Dijkstra, I'd like to address my first question to you today. It's in regard to the soaring input costs that farmers are facing across the country. Obviously, we know that fuel costs are a big consideration for every farm and every farmer. The price of diesel is impacting everything that's being trucked and shipped, and of course in the production of food.

I'll start with you, but perhaps both of you could weigh in on the effects of soaring diesel costs, and what that looks like this year in comparison with previous years.

Wietze Dykstra: Where do I start?

In our supply management, we cannot increase the price of our commodities—only once a year—so for now we have to eat those costs. I run a fairly large operation. If I had a \$4,000 diesel cost for the month of September last year, it would be \$8,000 now. That comes off my bottom line. It's a big cost for us, yes, but for the time being, we cannot pass it on to the consumer.

Richard Bragdon: Wow. You as producers are eating that additional cost. It's coming out of your bottom line every year. Year over year, on fuel cost alone, are you looking at double the cost this year as compared with other years?

Wietze Dykstra: I would say it's at least double the cost. That's correct. Yes.

Richard Bragdon: Wow.

Is it the same for you, Mr. Matheson?

Gilbert Matheson: Yes. I mean, my operations are fairly broad. There are various commodities. If I think of every bit of product that comes in, with grains in and product out, yes, in operations it's easily double. We certainly are feeling the pinch of that. We run quite a lag in agriculture, of course. Some of our products would be based on just what the market will give us. Some of them are fixed a little bit more, for example, in eggs and dairy, but still there's usually a year lag to receive those increases.

• (1550)

Richard Bragdon: In your estimation, at this point do these types of soaring input costs put some dairy farmers and dairy farms in New Brunswick at risk—i.e., as a factor for operations or consideration for future growth, or whether they make a decision regarding their farms?

Gilbert Matheson: I think everybody's feeling it a little bit more. They're making decisions on where they allocate their funds, certainly, as a result of that.

Richard Bragdon: Let me ask you this. I know there's a lot of uncertainty as it relates to the trade agreements and what's happening around tariffs. Obviously, there's the uncertainty around CUS-

MA. From your perspective as New Brunswick dairy farmers, in relation to those concerns, do you feel that the government could be doing better, or should be, to make sure that you as farmers are informed? What are some areas you're hearing about from your producers that definitely need to be prioritized right now as it relates to that?

I'll start with you, Mr. Dijkstra.

Wietze Dykstra: As I said in my opening remarks, trade has always been an issue. We do not want any more concessions from the government. Bill C-202 spoke to that. Supply management should be off the table. We do have to deal with the fact that there is a president south of the border who has supply management in the crosshairs. We trust that the government will do its best to look out for us.

Richard Bragdon: As a follow-up to that, Mr. Dijkstra, there's been a lot of talk around agreements with the EU, or potential future agreements. We know there are some existing agreements that weren't fully implemented with the EU. Do U.S. dairy farmers have concerns around any type of agreements or future agreements that there may be with the EU that you've discussed?

Wietze Dykstra: Supply management is based on three facts: import controls, supply and demand. When any of those tools get distorted, it creates an issue for us. The biggest problem is uncertainty for farmers. It's just like any business. Do you want to invest in a new barn? Do you want to invest in new machinery? Do you want to invest in this in an uncertain climate? That's the big problem that we have to deal with.

As we all know, we live in uncertain times right now, but that's the same for any business, for that matter. Any business is kind of hesitant to invest major amounts of money if the future is not certain.

Richard Bragdon: Thank you, Mr. Dijkstra.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Mr. Bragdon. I appreciate your relinquishing some of your time. Maybe we'll pass that on to someone else later on.

I will now move to the Liberals with Mr. MacDonald for six minutes, please.

Kent MacDonald (Cardigan, Lib.): Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the witnesses.

Welcome to two fellow dairy farmers from New Brunswick.

I'm going to start with Ms. Beardsley.

Ms. Beardsley, in the national food security strategy, we made an immediate announcement of \$20 million in direct funding. Obviously, this was emergency funding to help with the transition right now in providing your services across the country.

We certainly don't want to become dependent on food banks. Do you see anything in the national food strategy that's going to help us down the road to have lower retail grocery prices for consumers and those people who are most vulnerable to high grocery prices?

Kirstin Beardsley: Certainly the local food infrastructure fund is meant to be a support, as these times are critical. Food banks have seen a doubling of food bank use since 2019, so community organizations are having to serve twice as many folks through their doors than we used to. We are, as I said, very supportive of the national food security strategy. We know there needs to be investment in domestic supply and production.

From our perspective, we see that in order to address the underlying causes of food insecurity, it really is an income problem, and so we advocate for policies like EI reform or a study of provincial social assistance rates. We need to make sure that folks have the incomes they need to be able to afford food. In the meantime, food banks are being asked to double the amount of support that we provide, and that requires investments in infrastructure in order for us to be able to move the amount of food needed to serve folks in need across the country.

• (1555)

Kent MacDonald: Just this week we announced \$1 billion for the new food-link fund, to help build food hubs and infrastructure in those areas that may have gaps. I come from the province of Prince Edward Island. Atlantic Canada has gaps in cold storage and infrastructure to distribute food. It was there 40 years ago, but it's not there anymore. We now rely on distribution from areas like Montreal and Toronto.

Do you feel that the food-link funding is going to help create local markets for producers as well as small independent retailers to be in the food chain?

Kirstin Beardsley: The food-link fund is going to be critically important. Certainly from our perspective, we see the investment in infrastructure as critical. We also feel the lack of cold storage because we access cold storage, of course, to move food across the country and for processing capacity within the country. We receive a lot of donations from the manufacturing industry. We see a view of the supply chain that allows us to understand where there are gaps.

It's different from a commercial perspective, but we want to be good partners. We want to make sure that industry is built up alongside the community infrastructure. We're very pleased that the food-link fund will have eligibility for food banks to build the infrastructure that we need to serve the folks who we serve.

Kent MacDonald: Thank you.

I'll go now to the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick.

You've caught your breath. Are you ready for some more questions?

Wietze Dykstra: I guess so.

Kent MacDonald: I've spent my life as a dairy farmer as well, working within the supply-managed system. We also raised beef, and it's on the open market system. I'm not advocating for one or the other, but are there lessons that we learned in the dairy industry that would help across the country in establishing food security for Canadians?

I'm thinking in particular of the geopolitical situation we're in now. We have two conflicts or wars going on that are affecting input costs for agriculture. They're not affecting food supply yet, but could. It's not something that's unimaginable. I just wonder about your viewpoints on that, whoever wants to speak to it.

Wietze Dykstra: I can start. We can tag-team.

We learned with the COVID pandemic when there was a shortage of vaccines that the countries that have lots will look after themselves first, and then they will look after the country that was asking for the vaccine. With supply management and dairy, poultry and eggs, we have our market established in Canada. We know our demand, and we match that with the supply, so we will never have an issue with a shortage of a product if we have supply management in Canada.

In my opinion, that's very important for food sovereignty, because if we give it up, it's all fine as long as there's enough food in the world. However, if there is ever a shortage on something and we cannot produce it, and we are dependent on a different country to produce it for us, we might not get it.

Kent MacDonald: To add to that, the dairy industry has been very quick to pivot when the situation requires it. During COVID, the consumption of dairy products went up because people were staying home more. We met the challenge of the marketplace. Now we have to pivot to protein. It's the new craze. Again, we're meeting the challenge of the marketplace. Those things are positive.

The one thing the protein challenge brings up, though, is that we don't have enough processing capacity regionally in Atlantic Canada.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): I'm sorry, Mr. MacDonald. You're well past your time. I gave you a bit of leeway. I gave you a bit of Richard's 30 seconds.

• (1600)

Kent MacDonald: Six minutes isn't very long.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): You can bring up protein and processing in another round of questions.

[Translation]

Mr. Perron, you have the floor for six minutes.

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Thank you to the witnesses for joining us.

My question is for the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick.

I'm glad to hear you talk about supply management. I am especially pleased to hear you—

[English]

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): I've stopped the clock. We'll let Mr. Dijkstra get his earpiece on.

Wietze Dykstra: I'm not very smart.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): No. You are one of many who have struggled with this, including members of Parliament.

Mr. Dijkstra, can you make sure that your translation is coming in as well from French to English?

Mr. Perron, maybe you can say a few words.

[Translation]

Yves Perron: Can you hear me? Yes. Perfect.

Thank you to the interpreters for the great work they do every day. I want to take the opportunity to say that.

Let's start the clock again, Mr. Chair.

To the representatives of the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick, I'm very pleased to hear you talk about the importance of supply management. Mr. Dijkstra, I particularly liked your last comments when you said that, as long as we have supply management, regardless of the disruptions happening elsewhere, there would never be a problem here. I'm not the only one here happy to hear that. I can see those who worked with us on the famous legislation on this subject, which has since been passed, smile at this. We are pleased that this legislation exists. In the current context, we can't know what would have happened otherwise, but I seriously wonder.

However, the negotiations with the U.S. at the end of the summer raised some concerns. There were rumours. I don't know how well founded they were, other people around the table may be better informed than I am. The rumours were that changes would be accepted in the allocation of import quotas. Currently, they are primarily allocated to processors and they would be transferred to distributors. We at the Bloc Québécois were very concerned about that, because we thought it would increase the impact on our producers.

I'd like to hear you on that. How concerned are you about a change like this? It is outside the law we passed, so it doesn't affect this law, but is still a somewhat roundabout way of affecting producers' standard of living.

[English]

Gilbert Matheson: In particular, TRQs would have an effect if they were allocated differently. Currently, I think they're mostly with the processors. Some are with retail. The concern we would have as farmers is that if they were allocated more to the retail side,

it could be disruptive to our market in particular. I think that would be our biggest concern.

[Translation]

Yves Perron: If I understand you correctly—and tell me if I'm going too far—you would strongly recommend the government never touch this allocation. In any case, this is a decision that is entirely within Canada's sovereignty. We agree?

[English]

Gilbert Matheson: We would agree with that.

[Translation]

Yves Perron: That's good.

Now I'd like to talk about milk proteins. My colleague Mr. MacDonald talked about this a few minutes ago.

We know there is a great need for protein, for sports supplements, among other things. Whey is also in high demand. Not enough is being produced locally. A certain amount is imported.

That could be an interesting niche for milk producers in New Brunswick and Canada in general to develop. Is that being explored? Do you think it could be relevant to increase production?

[English]

Wietze Dykstra: Go ahead, Mr. Matheson.

Gilbert Matheson: We're currently working to increase production. Increasing production is not simple because you also have cows that produce butter fat, so you need to make sure you have room for all your components. We work very hard on the farm and also with the Dairy Farmers of Canada and on the New Brunswick side to send signals to producers that we need more protein. That way, the financial incentive is there for the producer to make that. We will get there, but it will take a little bit of time to fill those markets.

[Translation]

Yves Perron: Do you want to add anything, Mr. Dijkstra?

[English]

Wietze Dykstra: The problem is that the cow does not do the same thing that the consumer wants us to do in one or two years. We had a large demand for butter fat, so we have bred cows to give us butter fat. Now the consumers in the last two or three years want protein. That's great for us, except my cows have not listened to me that I have to give more protein. It's very hard to breed for more protein on short notice.

As Gilbert was saying, we will get there, but it will take a little bit of time. In the meantime, we're doing everything we can to fill the protein market because it's good for everybody, and we will fill it.

• (1605)

[Translation]

Yves Perron: Thank you for that. That is very important.

In general, I think the government may be somewhat overlooking agri-food processing and agriculture, and forgetting their importance in the economy. This is particularly the case for agri-food processing. Previous studies have shown significant underinvestment in our processing plants. I'm afraid that, at some point, we'll be too far behind. In your opening remarks, you talked about the need to invest or to facilitate investments.

If you had one or two proposals to make to the committee in that regard, so that we could pass them on to the government, what would they be?

[English]

Gilbert Matheson: I believe that investments have been slower coming. I think a lot can be attributed to some of the economic uncertainty through different trade concessions over the last, say, 10 years. You have concessions made, and that's slowed down the investment, certainly; however, as we mentioned in our opening remarks, there are some things the government has done to help with that, but I think there's some more that can be done there.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much. We appreciate that.

We'll now go to Mr. Gourde for five minutes, please.

[Translation]

Jacques Gourde (Lévis—Lotbinière, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'm going to come back to processing in New Brunswick.

You just said there has been some delay over the past 10 years. Has it jeopardized milk processing in New Brunswick to such an extent that milk had to be sent to other provinces for processing?

[English]

Wietze Dykstra: The answer is yes, and I can expand on that.

As Gilbert was saying, because of trade concessions, processors have been very hesitant to invest in processing due to, as I said earlier, business uncertainties in the whole business environment. Yes, the market has increased and demand has increased. As of today, we're sending milk to Quebec and Ontario to get processed. That's correct.

As of today, we do not have enough processing in the Maritimes. I would call it the Maritimes, because New Brunswick is fairly small, and we have to think on a regional basis, so it's P.E.I., Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Currently, we do not have enough processing in the Maritimes. That's correct.

[Translation]

Jacques Gourde: Was the climate of uncertainty you are talking about caused by a loss of confidence in the federal government among processors regarding the subsidies they could get? Was there a carelessness that simply led companies to want to change provinces because of a lack of volume? There's something I don't understand. What led to this climate of uncertainty?

[English]

Wietze Dykstra: The uncertainty was about trade concessions. If a processor wants to invest in a plant, you're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars. Those are, of course, very large investments. If the market is not secured by trade concessions to the States or to Europe, the danger is that those plants will not be filled with milk, and therefore, of course, the processor will not make any money processing the milk. It's all about business certainty or uncertainty.

[Translation]

Jacques Gourde: Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? Is there hope the climate of uncertainty will resolve and confidence will return so processors can at least process all of New Brunswick's milk near farms?

• (1610)

[English]

Wietze Dykstra: Processors have made some announcements about additional investing in the last two years. We hope that there's also a project in the Maritimes that will actually increase the processing capacity. Being able to process our milk in the Maritimes is also very much based on the protein market.

[Translation]

Jacques Gourde: Thank you.

Mr. Chair, how much time do I have left?

[English]

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): You have about 90 seconds.

[Translation]

Jacques Gourde: I will now turn to the Food Banks Canada representative.

How many more people have been using food banks over the past five years?

[English]

Kirstin Beardsley: I have data from 2019 to 2026. We've seen a doubling of the need. Right now that looks like nearly 2.2 million visits to food banks in a month in Canada.

[Translation]

Jacques Gourde: What kind of support do you need from the federal government to help people make ends meet, and not just in the short term? Are there any long-term solutions the government can put in place to help people get out of this situation and have the means to live and buy food?

[English]

Kirstin Beardsley: Absolutely. Food banks need investment right now in order to meet the need. We can't ask a community organization that is funded and supported by the generosity of its community to double the number of folks who come through the door, without some investment in the infrastructure. We move food. Food requires safety and appropriate handling, and that requires infrastructure.

If we are looking at the long-term solutions, as food banks, we absolutely advocate for income policy that ensures that folks have the incomes they need in order to be able to go to the grocery store and buy food. That's the best long-term solution to food insecurity. It's something like looking at EI reform, so that when people lose their jobs they're able to access stopgap income supports. We are asking for things like a parliamentary study and provincial social assistance, which we know is inadequate and creates a significant portion of food bank clients. We need some strategies to address northern food insecurity, which is beyond crisis levels.

There are policies, absolutely, that address those underlying causes. In the meantime, the food bank system is at risk of not being able to shoulder the demand that we currently see, and that requires investment in infrastructure.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Ms. Beardsley.

Now we will move to Mr. Gobeil for five minutes, please.

[Translation]

Daniel Gobeil (Chicoutimi—Le Fjord, Lib.): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My first question is for my former fellow producers.

Mr. Matheson, I'll start with you.

In Canada's latest bio-food policy, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food acknowledged that supply management is a model for food security and supply chain coordination in production, transportation and processing. Our government invested nearly \$400 million in a processing program for supply-managed products a few years ago. Just recently, it also announced funding to help dairy industry processors develop protein-enriched products.

Have these programs had an impact on your farms and your communities? Have they helped bring investments to New Brunswick and eastern Canada to shorten the supply chain and make the sector more efficient?

[English]

Gilbert Matheson: I think you mean in regard to some of the funding from some of the previous trade deals towards processing. I think that's helped in a smaller way, yes. There are some funds there. Of course a processor, if they're looking to invest, wants to try to take advantage of that, so it certainly has helped some, yes.

• (1615)

[Translation]

Daniel Gobeil: I have another question about trade deals.

We know the Canadian government has removed many barriers to interprovincial trade. Is supply management a good tool for interprovincial trade, for products to travel across Canada, for value-added products and for providing products to consumers across the country, now that interprovincial barriers have been lifted?

[English]

Wietze Dykstra: That's a good question.

As I said earlier, there's a certain amount of milk from the Maritimes processed in Quebec. As far as I understand it, that's in a different province, so the milk and dairy products do go back and forth between provincial boundaries.

Having said that, when you want to sell fluid milk in New Brunswick, you do need to adhere to some regulations. Let's say that fluid milk from British Columbia cannot be sold in New Brunswick, but I don't think you want to truck milk for three days in a truck to New Brunswick anyway because it would not taste quite the same. Overall, though, products in the dairy industry move across provincial boundaries. It's a non-issue, Mr. Gobeil.

[Translation]

Daniel Gobeil: Thank you.

I have a question for Ms. Beardsley.

Thank you for your presentation.

You know that producers always want to eliminate food waste. Thank you for your work with food banks and in food rescue.

The federal government has great programs to make it easier to invest in community infrastructure, such as food banks, solidarity kitchens and organizations that provide meals to children in schools or people in need.

Do you know whether any of your organization's members have benefited from these community infrastructure support programs?

[English]

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Give a quick answer, please.

Kirstin Beardsley: I'm sorry, but I missed the question.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Go ahead.

[Translation]

Daniel Gobeil: With regard to national infrastructure programs, we know there are funds for community organizations. Do you know if any of your organization's members use these programs as a lever to meet infrastructure needs in order to provide meals to children in schools or to the most disadvantaged in our society?

[English]

Kirstin Beardsley: Thank you.

Absolutely. There have been investments in community infrastructure, which have been critical to many organizations. I think some of us tend to think of food banks as, again, small community organizations, but the hubs we're talking about are large warehouses. They have fleets of trucks. They operate at scale. They have walk-in refrigeration. They're moving significant amounts of food into communities.

While those community organizations absolutely need investments in being able to serve their local communities, we also need investments in hub-type infrastructure: warehouses with cold-chain infrastructure and transportation that allow us to move large-scale food, whether that's donations or purchases, across the country. That's what we're talking about today, but absolutely there has been very meaningful investments in community infrastructure for sure.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Ms. Beardsley.

Thank you very much, Mr. Gobeil.

[Translation]

Mr. Perron, you have the floor for two and a half minutes.

Yves Perron: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Ms. Beardsley, I'd like to continue along the same lines, because I too have a question on the same topic.

Representatives from the Food Banks of Quebec told us, the Bloc Québécois, that they had not been consulted about the local food infrastructure fund. Moreover, some organizations told us the criteria were very restrictive.

You seem to be telling Mr. Gobeil that investments have been made. If that's the case, great. However, if you could make changes so it's easier for members of your organization to access the local food infrastructure fund, what would they be?

• (1620)

[English]

Kirstin Beardsley: I think the biggest change is really understanding that the scale of what we're trying to do in the food bank sector right now is very different from the very local community investments. While I'm fully in support of community kitchens and community gardens, the scale of the need we are currently serving is beyond.... I think it's hard for us to understand that 2.2 million folks are coming through the doors of food banks every month. This is requiring us to work at a scale that requires a different type of investment.

Certainly the food banks in Quebec, as you know, operate as large warehouse hubs. That allows them to work with farmers and

other producers to receive large-scale donations, to triage those and make sure they're going out into those community organizations in the safest and quickest way possible.

The types of investments we see right now are really at a systems level. They're a bit of a higher order of investment than those hyper-local community investments. We need to be able, as a system, to solve some of these issues so we can not say no to food, we can address food waste and we can make sure food is going where it's needed most right across the country.

[Translation]

Yves Perron: Ms. Beardsley, if you could make specific written recommendations to the committee to improve the local food infrastructure fund, particularly for food banks, that would be welcome.

You spoke briefly about employment insurance and inadequate social assistance. I imagine you would support a comprehensive reform of employment insurance, so people are better covered when they lose their jobs. That would reduce demand in your area and open opportunities to other clientele.

[English]

Kirstin Beardsley: Exactly. Thank you for mentioning that. We absolutely want to make sure that folks, when they lose their job, are not falling off the cliff of income. We know that job loss is a significant indicator for the need for food banks. Once you get into that cycle of not being able to access other supports, it's hard to climb out of that yourself, so we want to make sure that when people lose their job, they have access to adequate sources of income so they're not having to rely on food banks and can get back into the job market as quickly as possible.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Ms. Beardsley.

We have two more rounds of questions. I'm just going to give four minutes each so we stay on time. We have Mr. Epp for four minutes and then Mr. Lewis for four minutes.

Go ahead, Mr. Epp.

Dave Epp (Chatham-Kent—Leamington, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'll continue with Ms. Beardsley.

With 23% of your members running out of food before they met the demand last year, can you confirm that some of the food you received as donations came from farmers, from retail and from the food manufacturing sector?

Kirstin Beardsley: Yes to all of that. We get donations from across the food supply chain right across the country. Nationally, we work with Loblaw and Walmart, for example. All their stores are matched with food banks, and they donate to food banks. We receive donations from food manufacturers across the country, and certainly producers are very generous in supporting food banks right across the country. That said, right now our demand is such that it's not adequate to meet the—

Dave Epp: My point is this, then. Would you agree that when establishing national multi-large infrastructure projects that would diminish Canada's food sovereignty and food security, that cost should be also taken into account? I'm thinking about Alto here.

Kirstin Beardsley: I can only speak to our perspective as Food Banks Canada. Yes, we think food security, or food insecurity, should be a significant national priority. As I said off the top right now, nearly a quarter of folks in Canada are experiencing food insecurity. We need to make sure that folks are considered and that food insecurity is part of a priority for the federal government and for provincial governments as well across the country.

Dave Epp: Thank you.

Shifting to New Brunswick, with the trade tensions with the U.S., our partners particularly in the dairy sector, and with the government's stated intentions of moving closer to the EU, are there any concerns about the market access concessions potentially coming up in any further arrangements with the EU?

Gilbert Matheson: Well, I think, given the historic past of trade concessions in previous trade deals, we're always concerned. We're forever concerned with that. We would just ask and recommend that no concessions be made in that regard towards the EU or any other country, for that matter.

• (1625)

Dave Epp: In your testimony, you referenced that the maritime provinces often act as a region. I've been in Nappan. It's just over the border from New Brunswick. I know that research there focused a bit more on the beef side. Have you felt the impact? Do you anticipate any effects from the closure of that station on your sector in New Brunswick?

Gilbert Matheson: I don't think I can add comment to that. It was primarily beef, and I'm in dairy and poultry in my own operation, so I really couldn't speak to that.

Dave Epp: I'm going to go to the investment that all the witnesses have spoken positively of, the \$3.2 billion toward the national food security strategy. Let's compare that to a commitment already of \$3.9 billion to an infrastructure project, namely Alto. What would New Brunswick, your sector, benefit from the Alto project going ahead?

Wietze Dykstra: You'll have to first explain what Alto stands for, because I don't really know.

Dave Epp: It's a high-speed rail project.

Wietze Dykstra: Does it come to New Brunswick?

Dave Epp: No, it doesn't. You'll have the opportunity to pay for it, but it does not come to New Brunswick.

Wietze Dykstra: I'm in no position to comment on that if I don't even know what Alto stands for. I guess I'll pass on that question.

Dave Epp: Okay.

Let's go, then, to the topic of the preservation of farmland, which Alto will impact. There was a huge demonstration with the farm groups from Ontario and Quebec on September 19. Would you have any general comments when it comes to the preservation of farmland and Canada's food sovereignty, or the ability to produce our own food?

Wietze Dykstra: The only comment I can make is that for my dairy farm, I need x number of acres to feed my cows. If I don't have those x number of acres, I cannot feed my cows. I would have to shrink my herd.

That's the only comment I can make based on your question. I cannot go any further than that.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Mr. Dykstra.

Now we'll go to Mr. Louis for four minutes, please.

Tim Louis (Kitchener—Conestoga, Lib.): Thank you, Chair. I want to thank all witnesses. Thank you to the Dairy Farmers and Food Banks Canada as well.

I will start with Ms. Beardsley from Food Banks Canada.

Thank you for the work you do in supporting Canadian food security. In my region, in Waterloo, we see this every day in how you help our community. We have larger cities and small communities. We have local partners like Woolwich Community Services and Wilmot & Wellesley Resource Centre all working together in that hub model that you're talking about. It also takes more than that—there are local places of worship, service clubs, schools, you mentioned community gardens, volunteers and agriculture organizations, farmers themselves—to create that network of neighbours helping neighbours. It's very appreciated.

One of the things we haven't mentioned yet, and I would like your perspective on it, is the impact that investments in the national school food program can have on food security for families and children. Also, what indicators should the government be looking at to determine the success and the challenges of the program in reducing food insecurity?

Kirstin Beardsley: I obviously am very appreciative of the investments in the school food program. None of us wants to see kids going to school hungry. We see the impacts. A lot of food bank volunteers or teachers do the work that they do because they know kids are going to their classrooms hungry, and that affects their ability to learn and grow and thrive. There are experts in the school meal space, the school food space, that can give you the indicators.

From our perspective, we can come to the table to be players so that it is a coordinated community response. When food banks are community-based food infrastructure, they can serve and support the entire community. They can access local food from local producers and make sure that makes its way not just to food banks and food bank clients but into schools and other community organizations.

What's really needed is a backbone infrastructure that allows communities to be responsive. We can't ask every small local community to have the cold chain capacity, the relationship-building capacity or the straight-up infrastructure and trucks to get that food in and get it out. That's the role food banks can play as community-owned food infrastructure that allows all of these other programs to be successful.

Tim Louis: Thank you so much.

I have such limited time, and I have many more questions for everyone.

I'll turn to the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick.

You mentioned in your opening statement the importance of processing infrastructure, modernization, upgrading and building. You spoke about product-specific modules to lower barriers and create opportunities.

Can you give us an example of what a product-specific module would look like and how we can support that?

• (1630)

Wietze Dykstra: I can make a comment about processing. It may not be exactly what you're looking for.

For instance, a company in my neighbourhood wanted to set up cheese processing. When they started to dig into all of the rules and regulations, they became overwhelmed. I would really encourage the government to streamline this, or find a way to help budding entrepreneurs find their way through the maze to set up processing. This would often be for the processing of niche products they want to do.

Tim Louis: Niche or value-added....

In the 30 seconds I have, Mr. Matheson, if you can, please add to that.

Gilbert Matheson: You asked about a specific product. Quite often, more local processing can be cheese and some specialty stuff, but I think there are also some markets for locally produced milk and a wider variety of different products, but a wider variety of brands of products, too, that could be helpful for local marketing.

Tim Louis: That's great. Thank you, both.

Thank you, Chair.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Mr. Louis.

I'm going to steal Mr. Bragdon's 30 seconds and build on a question that Mr. Perron asked.

Mr. Dijkstra, I've had the chance to be at your farm, and I recall you being here when we discussed CUSMA a number of years ago. Mr. Perron asked.... There were a lot of rumours this summer about maybe 50% of the TRQs being moved to perhaps American retail. We didn't know any better then—perhaps you did—on whether or not that was true.

We also remember, in the previous CUSMA agreement, when the ability to export class 6 and 7 milk products came as a surprise in CUSMA.

Is the government keeping you well informed in what potential discussions or concessions may or may not be coming in the latest negotiations on a renewed CUSMA?

Wietze Dykstra: The only thing I would like to say is that at the last CUSMA negotiations, what was decided at the 11th hour and 59th minute came as a surprise, I think, to almost everybody, and we do not want that to happen again.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much.

I want to thank our witnesses for being with us today. Your testimony is obviously very helpful, and we appreciate your time.

We will suspend for about five minutes to switch up the panels.

Colleagues, take five or seven minutes and we'll be back for the second panel.

• (1630)

(Pause)

• (1640)

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): I bring this meeting back to order.

I'm going to repeat a bit of housekeeping for our new witnesses. I know our members are well aware, but I'll go through some things quite quickly.

For the witnesses who are here, please wait until I recognize you by name before you start speaking. For the witness online, remember to mute yourself when you are not speaking. There is the ability to make sure you're getting French or English interpretation.

Mr. Lee, there is an earpiece for interpretation in English or French, if you need it.

We will have some questions from our members after you've been given five minutes for your opening statements.

Again, for Mr. Lee and others, please keep your earpiece as far away from your microphone as possible for the benefit of our interpreters.

Colleagues, I would like to introduce our panel for the second hour today.

We have Amy Caughey, research associate and adjunct professor, who is with the University of Alberta's School of Public Health and the Nunavut Research Institute. We also have Mr. Ian Lee, associate professor, Sprott School of Business at Carleton University.

Welcome. Thank you very much for being with us today.

Witnesses, you will each get five minutes for your opening comments. I won't cut you off right at five minutes, but try to stay as close to five minutes as you can. Afterwards, we'll have questions from the members of Parliament who are with us on the committee today.

We'll start with you, Mr. Lee. You have five minutes for your opening comments. Please go ahead.

Ian Lee (Associate Professor, Sprott School of Business, Carleton University, As an Individual): Thank you for inviting me.

I take this very seriously. Appearing before the House of Commons and Senate committees is very important.

First are my disclosures. One, I don't belong to, donate to or allow lawn signs for any political party. Two, I do not consult for or invest in any companies anywhere. Three, relevant to this committee, I grew up on a farm, a real farm, in Beckwith Township, Lanark County, eastern Ontario, in the 1960s. Four, for nine years in the 1970s and early 1980s, I lent millions of dollars to SMEs at BMO based on analysis of firms' value chains.

Then, for the last 35 years, I've researched and taught the strategy course that evaluates the competitiveness of firms, industries and government policies. During that period, right after the wall came down, I taught over 90 times—short term, two weeks at a time—in EMBA, in Poland, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, Czech Republic and Latvia and later in Iran, Cuba and China. I've been teaching in China every year since 1997 and still do.

Finally, I've just published a book. I'm not getting any royalties, I assure you. It was published with Larry O'Brien, the former mayor of Ottawa and the founder of Calian Technologies. It analyzes Canada's structural problems of protectionism that have hurt the competitiveness of Canada. The book is called *Trapped in the Shadow of Trump's America and How We Escape*.

My opening comments will draw on the conclusions of our book based on the experiences of Larry O'Brien in creating a company from scratch that now earns \$775 million a year on the Toronto Stock Exchange and my experiences lending millions to SMEs and studying the deepest minds on competitiveness and economic growth over the past 250 years, from Adam Smith to Keynes, from Friedman to Michael Porter and Schumpeter.

You are to be applauded for investigating policy responses to threats to our economy due to our deteriorating relationship with the U.S. However, my fear and concern is that, rather than see this as an opportunity to remove or reduce the barriers introduced over

the past 60 years, we will add to the terrible mistakes of our past instead of correcting them.

It's worth quoting Samuel Johnson, the powerful 18th century critic of false patriotism, who famously said, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." In the name of flag-waving patriotism, some proposals are being made today in Canada that will involve more protectionism for some products, firms or industries.

Now, before reviewing some of our worst policy failures over the last 60 years that are in our book, which weakened Canada over the last 60 years and made us so vulnerable to a Donald Trump, I must first start with two fundamental economic axioms.

One, private-for-profit firms exist to maximize value creation to their customers. Schumpeter taught us this. Michael Porter taught us this. I've believed it since I was in the bank.

Two, trade is micro, not macro. Firms trade with firms inside and outside their country. Trading decisions are not made by any level of government.

These two axioms provide profound existential insights.

One, governments do not trade with anybody. There's no Wizard of Oz in the basement of the PCO or ISED directing firm A in Toronto to trade with firm B in Ottawa instead of firm Z in Chicago.

Two, source of SCA, or sustainable competitive advantage, of any firm is determined by the business strategies of the managers within its value chain inside the company. In other words, SCA is not created by government.

By contrast, governments, elected officials, public servants, and yes, academics and non-profits do not possess the deep, granular, day-to-day, tacit knowledge of the firm's value chain and its understanding of price, discovery, supply, demand and their strengths. This does not mean there's nothing that governments can do. There are all kinds of things that governments can do. The crucial distinction for policy-makers is between coercive, direct government intervention in the markets versus indirect intervention using incentives, such as accelerated CCA, lower corporate income tax and elimination of duplicative red tape. Direct government interventions are typically not voluntary and involve mandatory restrictions that reduce the efficiency of the firms and the supply chains, and they drive down our productivity, as we have witnessed over and over for the last 30 to 40 years.

Carolyn Rogers—a shout-out to her at the Bank of Canada—has delivered some excellent speeches showing this. She's completely non-partisan.

There are numerous governing instruments available to encourage efficient supply chains and more competitive firms. There are internal regulatory barriers that hinder innovation and competitiveness. We're near the bottom of the OECD comparison of red tape barriers.

Two, interprovincial barriers of duplicative regulations have imposed \$200 billion on us, or 9% of GDP, per the IMF. If you look at the national Bank of Canada, their chief economist estimates that it's more like 20%.

Three, acute infrastructure bottlenecks disrupt the flow of goods within Canada and to export markets.

● (1645)

The port of Vancouver is a national disgrace in our country. It's number 398 out of 402 ports on the World Bank list.

Four is lack of reliable broadband, which is an enabling technology. I characterized it as the new post office, but it runs way faster, at 300,000 kilometres per second. That's the speed of light, which is the speed of electricity. That lack limits the ability of our firms to exploit new technologies.

I have just one page left.

The second-last point that I want to bring out and put on the record—

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Mr. Lee, you're at your time. Can you try to wrap it up? I thought you might say you had one comment left, not one page.

Ian Lee: I just want to get to the two other issues that I hope we can talk about.

Over 65 years, we have one of the worst records in the OECD for strikes in the transportation sector, requiring 36 back-to-work bills in successive Parliaments from 1965 until now and seven ministerial section 107s.

The final issue is labour market shortages and failures of our immigration policy to develop more nuanced, targeted policies to address real labour market shortages.

I'll stop there. I have a little bit more, but—

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): You'll have lots of time with the questions from the panel, Mr. Lee. Thank you very much. Those were very interesting comments.

Now we'll go to Ms. Caughey for five minutes, please.

Amy Caughey (Research Associate and Adjunct Professor, University of Alberta School of Public Health, Nunavut Research Institute, As an Individual): Hi, everyone. *Qujannamiik*. Thank you for the invitation to speak with your committee today.

I am Dr. Amy Caughey. I'm speaking to you from the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit in Nunavut, where I'm a research associate.

For the past 25 years, I've had the privilege to live and work in Nunavut, the homeland of Nunavut Inuit. I'm an adjunct professor and research associate at the University of Alberta's School of Public Health and hold a Ph.D. in public health. Along with partners in Nunavut, we lead a research team focused on food sovereignty, environmental health and advancing social determinants of health for Inuit.

Today I wish to offer you three considerations. The first is the importance of country food. Another is the urgency of food security in the north. Finally, there is the opportunity of agri-food to support resilient communities in the Arctic.

In Nunavut, local food includes country food. Country food refers to harvested wildlife and plants from the land, sea and sky. These are foods like fish, caribou, seal, walrus and birds, foods that Inuit have consumed since time immemorial. Research has demonstrated that on days when people eat country food, they're better nourished than on days when they do not. Research has also shown that having a hunter in a household actually supports food security.

Country food is also linked to food sovereignty. Food sovereignty is the right of people and communities to define their own sustainable, healthy and culturally appropriate food and agricultural system. Inuit have identified deep connections of country food with physical and mental health, identity and well-being.

Access to food is a major concern in Nunavut. Nunavut continues to experience the highest rate of food insecurity in Canada. Last year, 56% of people in Nunavut lived in food-insecure households. For children, 67% lived in food-insecure homes. The negative impacts of food insecurity on health, well-being and our economy are well documented.

As all rural and northern communities know, local challenges need local solutions. Inuit have identified what is needed to advance food security in their homelands, calling for increased Inuit self-determination over food systems. Inuit have identified the need to reduce poverty and address the high cost of living in the north, and importantly, Inuit have articulated a need to uphold harvesting and food-sharing systems by investing in programs to support hunting and harvesting skills and land-based knowledge sharing.

Inuit have called for participation in the harvesting economy to be a viable livelihood and have identified how this can be actioned: investment in harvesting, support of school and youth programs to include harvesting and teach country food skills, and enhanced harvesting infrastructure in communities.

As we have heard today, agriculture is about people. The food needs of our country are diverse. In the north, deep Inuit knowledge of wildlife and the environment is foundational for local, sustainable food systems. Research and investment that support country food safety and wildlife health in a changing Arctic are also critical infrastructure. Strengthening Inuit-determined food security will strengthen the Arctic and Canada.

Thank you.

• (1650)

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Ms. Caughey. I appreciate your comments.

We're now going to go to questions from our panel.

We're going to start with Mr. Epp of the Conservatives for six minutes, please.

Dave Epp: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thank you to both witnesses.

I'll start with a question for Ms. Caughey.

Regarding local issues requiring local solutions, including hunting and harvesting, can you expand on what you mean by that?

Amy Caughey: Inuit describe hunting and harvesting as being able to access wildlife for food. Things like seals and walrus are harvested locally. The hunting economy, the hunting practice, within Nunavut is very active. All communities have harvesters.

Inuit identify that harvesting includes the knowledge system that encompasses how to be on the land, how to survive on the land, how to access and read the environment and understand animals and harvest them, then to prepare them, butcher them and preserve them.

Dave Epp: I had the opportunity to visit the Northwest Territories this summer. I look forward to a trip to Nunavut at some point.

Dr. Lee, on September 19, you spoke in Quebec at a rally. I very much appreciated your testimony. This is about food security. There are national projects of interest that very well may make a business case where we do give up access to farmland and interrupt farm food systems because it is in the national interest, because the business case is so strong.

Can you elaborate on your presentation in Quebec on September 19 as to whether the business case for Alto is strong enough that it would warrant the loss of farmland, the loss of food security that that project will entail?

Ian Lee: For anyone who thinks I'm some kind of an anti-train crazy person or something, I've been flying into Shanghai since 1997, and I've been taking their high-speed bullet train from Pudong airport, an hour and a half south, into Shanghai every time I go. I just got back in April. It's an amazing train. I've taken the bullet train from Tokyo to Osaka, and I've taken the bullet train in France over to the Chunnel, and they're fantastic technologies.

I've looked at this particular proposal up and down, and I've compared it to the Chinese rail system, as well as to the French, Spanish and Japanese rail systems, and I don't believe it makes economic sense because we have the exact opposite of what high-speed rail needs. High-speed rail needs an awful lot of people with very high densities. That's why China builds more high-speed rail than everybody else.

We have very tiny densities. We have the smallest density in the world. I argued that this is going to be vastly more expensive when you benchmark it against other projects, specifically the Los Angeles to San Francisco rail proposal, which is the most conservative. That minimal estimate now comes in at \$135 billion, which is \$200 billion Canadian. The highball estimate is more like \$300 billion U.S. We're radically underestimating the capital cost.

The killer, I think, is they're estimating that 71% of all trips between cities, trips between Quebec City and Toronto, will be by train. I looked at that data. It is available. I assure every one of you that you can look at it. Eurostat has excellent data. They're running 7%, not 77% or 27%, but 7%.

I looked at China thinking that it's a low-income country and surely, they'll have very high penetration. They're at 3%.

The only country in the world that is above 10%—and I'm talking percentage of people taking trips by train—is Japan. They're up to 25%. They're not even close to 71%. They've been building bullet trains since the 1964 Olympics. They know how to build high-speed trains.

The point is that we are radically overestimating the take-up rate and we're radically underestimating the construction costs. I'm arguing it's going to be a bigger white elephant than Mirabel.

If I could put one point on the record, and it's something that nobody's talking about and we should be—and I realize it's not there yet—it is autonomous vehicles. There's a person who I may not like as a human being, but I respect him. His name is Elon Musk. He's the only trillionaire on planet Earth. He is on the record saying that autonomous vehicles are going to eradicate conventional cars within 10 years because of the incredible competitive advantage. As a sidebar, he argues that it's going to basically kill passenger rail everywhere. You can look that up, but I actually hope you get Elon Musk to testify. That's what I'd love to see.

• (1655)

Dave Epp: I'm going to ask you to confirm a few more facts on the record, because you started off some of your arguments on the density.

Japan, with 60 years in the business, has a density of 338 or 336 people per square kilometre. China is at 150, but 94% of that population lives on 43% of the land, so really, its density is closer to 300 where the high-speed trains are operating.

This is not a fair number. Canada's density is four or four and a half. Now, that's the entire country. There are 17 million people who live in the corridor where Alto was proposed. Would you take a rough estimate of what our density is to compare it with the 300-plus people in the other areas?

Ian Lee: I'm working on it now, so I don't have a number for you, but it's going to be radically lower because.... We're talking about Quebec City. By the way, I looked this one up, too. There are 500,000 people in Quebec City, and 50% of the adult population works for the Quebec public service. I just don't believe that the entire Quebec public service is going to be taking the train every day to Toronto. It just boggles the mind to believe that.

It's really going to be Montreal to Toronto to save, it's estimated, maybe 30 minutes, if they can get the speeds they forecast. That's an awful lot of capital given that we have so many other pressing needs in our society, whether it's health care or whatever.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): I'm sorry, Mr. Epp. Your time is up.

I'll give you a chance to maybe get it into the next round of questions.

Now we go to Ms. Dandurand for six minutes, please.

[Translation]

Marianne Dandurand: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Thank you to the witnesses for joining us.

[English]

I'm going to speak English to make it easier. I'm going to address my questions to Madam Caughey, who I met with earlier this summer. It was really great to be in Iqaluit and to get to learn a lot more about food systems in northern Canada.

I'd like to hear a bit more about country food, not only what it is, but how it's important to nutrition in the north and within the society in the north.

• (1700)

Amy Caughey: I must say that what I have learned has been from Inuit living here and working in this system. That's my position on that, as a non-indigenous researcher.

What I can tell you and what I have learned is that country food is more than just food. My team of Inuit here and the researchers I work with from institutions outside of Nunavut have looked into this. We have talked with people, and we conducted a study that looked at the wide-ranging health and social impacts of having country food and country food that people want to eat. We heard that people felt connected to their culture and to their home. Country food is associated with things that we feel are improvements to mental health and to physical health. That's what I have learned from being here.

What I have learned from looking at the nutrient content is also quite striking. Seal is a source of protein, which sounds like an important topic for your committee's consideration. We know that protein, micronutrients and a range of important things are challenges in Nunavut. For example, we have challenges here related to vitamin D, which is something we get from the sun. The Inuit diet is very high in vitamin D. Seal fat and seal liver are sources of vitamin D, which is deficient here. What we need and what Inuit are asking for are systems and investment in supporting that local economy, so people are eating food that they want to eat and that they say their body was designed for.

With this idea that what we eat is specific to where we come from, what we're used to and what foods are grown locally, for Nunavut that means country food. I think that we all can picture that in our lives—and in particular in this excellent committee that's looking at these issues of what's important locally—really when we look at what local food is, it's country food.

Marianne Dandurand: If we think about the federal programs.... We're looking into greenhouses and that type of thing to help grow more food longer in the year. What do you think of it in the north? We've talked about it, but what are the challenges related to greenhouses, and why would country food be a better solution?

Amy Caughey: I can tell you that one seal can feed 15 to 20 people. I can tell you that it is the food people want to eat. It's high in micronutrients, as I was mentioning. When we look at quantity and quality of food, we have not been able to show that this comes from greenhouses within Nunavut. That has been a consistent challenge.

We also need to look at what people are asking to eat and what they want to eat. That's food sovereignty, as I mentioned.

Where we are now is that we are asking for investment in a harvesting economy, programs that support hunters to go on the land and to take young people on the land so they can learn the skills of environmental monitoring, of wildlife harvesting and of how to see animals and find animals, which are the food source.

Also, when those foods come to the community, it's also important that people have skills in what to do with those foods, how to preserve them, how to prepare them and how to deal with country foods, in particular in a changing environment. An example is fermenting foods. We do some work with how skills are shared for fermenting and preserving food.

When we think about what Inuit are asking for, there's a huge need to support land programs. I worked for many years with school food programs, and every school in Nunavut would ask for more funding to have land programs, to hire elders and hunters to take young people out on the land so that they could learn those skills. We want children to be acquiring the taste of country food so that it's something that stays with them and they're able to carry it throughout their life.

Again, that's for all cultures and diverse food systems. I think when we think about security of the Arctic, we need to seriously look at how we can support food security within Nunavut and within the Arctic. We need to really look at our high rates of poverty and address those if we are hoping for a secure and strong Arctic.

• (1705)

Marianne Dandurand: You have only 10 seconds left, so I'm going to thank you for your commitment to this file. It's really interesting to listen to you, and I hope our recommendations are going to help those populations.

Amy Caughey: It was my pleasure. Thank you very much.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much.

[Translation]

Mr. Perron, you have the floor for six minutes.

Yves Perron: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Since we have a very high-quality interpretation service and we want to keep it, I'll ask all my questions in French, while thanking the people who do this important work.

Ms. Caughey, I'd like to hear your thoughts on the nutrition north Canada program. It is based in Winnipeg and is supposed to help Inuit communities in Quebec with affordability, among other things, because food in the north is much more expensive than in the south. Of course, I'm talking about foods in general, not the traditional food you were talking about a few minutes ago.

I would like to know what the results of this program are. Does it really make it possible to have quality food? Does it affect the prices consumers have to pay in the north?

[English]

Amy Caughey: I work with colleagues who study nutrition north and the grocery supply chain system. Clearly, nutrition north needs a review. Inuit have identified that nutrition north must be reviewed. Again, when we look at food sovereignty, we're looking at

listening to local concerns. Number one, nutrition north needs a review.

We have an extremely high cost of living in Nunavut, and we know that it is unaffordable for families. We know also that we have issues with social determinants of health that play into people's ability to buy food at the store, including overcrowding and a housing crisis that is very specific to Nunavut.

For nutrition north, I think the experts who have been reviewing this have said very clearly that nutrition north needs a review. That should also be a priority when we're talking about food security in the north.

[Translation]

Yves Perron: I expected that answer. I would like something more specific, if you have any ideas, Ms. Caughey. You can also submit answers in writing later on, if what you'd like to say would take more than the six minutes I have.

According to studies, on average, \$0.67 of every dollar goes back to the population. That's very little, in my opinion. Perhaps that's a reflection of how ineffective the program is.

People, including Inuit, said this money should be used to support food co-operatives instead of going back to private retailers. What do you think about that? Is that a good way to go? If you have any potential solutions for making changes to the nutrition north Canada program, I would like to hear them quickly.

[English]

Amy Caughey: I think one of the positive elements of nutrition north is that there's a recognition that local food systems, as in what I've just outlined, country food systems and harvesting programs, need to be supported. One thing that has been quite positive is that nutrition north has identified that funds need to go toward that. I think that needs to be reviewed, and we need to hear from people about how that worked. That is something I would say, and I thank you for the opportunity.

I think that providing written comments from the people I'm working with within Nunavut, who are at the grocery store every day and who are looking for and asking for more traditional food to supplement and to frame the basis of their diet, would also be an excellent contribution to how this is happening; that is, listening to people who are going to the store.

Again, the cost of grocery store food is unaffordable for many large families and even for small families. The costs we are enduring within the north are increasing, and the supports for families are not meeting that. I think that's the biggest overall challenge we're facing. In Nunavut, 43% of people are experiencing poverty. We have the highest poverty in Canada. These are huge considerations when we come to looking at how subsidies are passed on.

In terms of the specifics of nutrition north, it needs a review. It needs a review with economists, as well as professionals and researchers who are trained in that area, to really see what's working for Inuit. I think we also have to look at nutrition north as a food security initiative. That's really key, because sometimes it's not looked at that way.

• (1710)

[Translation]

Yves Perron: Thank you very much.

There are opportunities for studies, such as the one on the seal hunt, which my colleague from the Maritimes is getting ready to carry out. My colleague from Abitibi—Témiscamingue is also preparing to undertake a study on ways to further support indigenous nations in his region.

It may also be a good idea to fund local food production initiatives. I know the challenges are greater in the north, particularly with the climate. However, do you think there is an opportunity there, that we could develop opportunities to produce more food closer to where it is consumed? Do you think that's an avenue we could explore?

[English]

Amy Caughey: While we're exploring these things, we need to determine what actually works. We have not seen that local food production has worked. What we do know is that when people consume traditional food, local food that's available to them and local food they want to eat, they're better nourished than on days when they don't. Certainly, if we're able to show that growing things locally is affordable and is what communities want, then that's sovereignty over their food system. Right now, when I'm working with communities and talking about food, what people are asking for is support for local food, which is country food.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Ms. Caughey. I appreciate that.

[Translation]

Thank you very much, Mr. Perron.

[English]

We have time for the last two rounds of five minutes each: Mr. Bonk and then Mr. Connors.

We'll start with Mr. Bonk for five minutes, please.

Steven Bonk (Souris—Moose Mountain, CPC): Thank you.

Mr. Lee, could you please table your opening comments with the clerk? You didn't quite have time to finish.

Ian Lee: Yes, I'll do that.

Steven Bonk: Excellent.

We talk about food sovereignty and food security. Right now in Canada, we have the lowest beef cattle numbers since the 1950s. The beef industry has been used as a political football for a long time in Canada. There are not many encouraging signs for young producers to get into this industry at the moment, because there's not much predictability. They just feel like it's not an industry that is safe for them to get into.

Now we have the government trying to finalize a deal with Mercosur countries, where they can produce beef about 80% more cheaply than we can. They don't have the same quality. Most of their cattle are *Bos indicus*, and the countries have less rigorous standards when it comes to processing, when it comes to environmental standards and when it comes to labour standards.

I know we all believe in free markets, but at the same time, when we're talking about food sovereignty.... Our advantage in Canada is quality. We're known all over the world for this. Could you just maybe comment on that?

Ian Lee: I appreciate the question. Believe me, I'm going to give you a non-ideological answer.

There's a trade-off. I understand that, and I believe in free markets. I think it's very obvious. I've been to too many countries where they don't have free markets, and they're disastrous. Cuba is a mess. I've taught there nine times, and I don't mean at resorts on nice beaches. I mean in downtown Havana. Iran is a mess. I've taught there 10 times for three weeks at a time. It doesn't work, but that doesn't mean an unregulated market is the way to go either. I'm not advocating that. We have a very good system of regulation across our economy, in many areas. The CFIA, I think, is doing an excellent job.

My response to you is that we have to use regulation intelligently and say, "Look. We have a certain standard in this country that we want to achieve for beef." Then we can use the regulatory power of the government to set minimum standards and say, "This is not going to be allowed in."

I've made this argument with people in terms of supply management. I'm not going to get into that debate. I've said that if you really believe the Americans are using certain chemicals in the milk, well, we can pass regulations to prohibit.... We don't have to ban it from coming in. We just say that it can't come in if they're going to put certain substances in it. We do this all the time with our food. The CFIA and Health Canada do a very good job regulating those chemicals, processes or substandard qualities we don't want.

I would argue that we do it through regulation rather than banning the product from coming into the country.

• (1715)

Steven Bonk: We also have the government, at the moment, talking about getting a closer relationship with the EU. We're still unclear about what that will mean when it comes to agriculture regulation. I know the government plays a very important, heavy role in agriculture in the EU. I know because I've run agriculture businesses there. They in fact pay you to not produce, which does nothing for food security or food sovereignty. You're seeing that in Europe.

Do you have any comments on that and how it should be avoided here in Canada?

Ian Lee: Believe me, I respect our Prime Minister very much, but I would caution you about Europe. Our media is not doing a good job because there are so many other things to talk about.

Europe is going through a crisis right now, and I don't just mean the meltdown in France. If anyone here wants to challenge me, please download the Mario Draghi report. It is on the website of the European Commission. Mario Draghi is a former governor of the European Central Bank. He was for several years. The Draghi report is very depressing reading. It talks about all the problems facing Europe—a very serious decline in productivity and innovation. Draghi said that if they don't adopt radical reforms very quickly, the size of the economy and the standard of living will shrink very dramatically in Europe.

They're also facing, very quickly, China shock 2.0. I hope every one of you googles that. There are a very good number of articles out from European think tanks. That's the shock of China targeting high-end machinery and electronics. They're afraid it's going to completely hollow out German, Italian and French manufacturing.

Europe has a ton of problems. I love going to Europe. I have a European passport.

Steven Bonk: I have a bit of time here.

Something happened that I'd like to get your comments on, because this is very important.

We saw President Trump intervene in the market when it came to beef. He imported, for 90 days, 300,000 metric tons of beef into the United States. He said that it would reduce the cost of beef at the store by 25%. It actually turned out to be 2%, or 16¢ per pound for hamburger, as an example, yet the price of cattle in the United States and Canada, because we're an integrated market, dropped from \$200 to \$600 per head.

Can you comment on why government intervention in free markets is not a good idea?

Ian Lee: I'll repeat that I'm not anti-government. I'm a public servant. I'm in a public university. My father was in the public service of Canada for 42 years. I don't have an anti-public service.... It's just that governments—

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): I'm sorry. Give us a quick answer, if you don't mind.

Ian Lee: Governments are good at refereeing. They're the referee of the game. They're not good at playing with the football. They're not Tom Brady, and they can't play on the field.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you. That's a good analogy.

Mr. Connors, go ahead for five minutes, please.

Paul Connors (Avalon, Lib.): I thank all the witnesses for coming today.

Ms. Caughey, I'm going to ask you a couple of questions.

We've used the terms “food sovereignty” and “food security”. Are they one and the same, in your opinion, or is there a difference between the two?

Amy Caughey: I think there is a difference between the two. Food security is having food, while food sovereignty is having the food that you want to eat. That really is the difference between how you feel, how your health is and what you feed your children, etc.

Within my work, one person who participated in our research described that if she ate a lot of store-bought meat and didn't have seal meat, she was constantly hungry. It's the feeling that you can be hungry even if you have food but it's not the food that fulfills you or the food you want to eat. I think all of us can think of examples. If we don't have the food that's familiar to us, and often we say it's food that our family has eaten or something we associate with what our grandmother ate, then we're not feeling fulfilled.

When we have food sovereignty, we also have control over our food system. We say that people up north should be eating plants, because that's what the World Health Organization says. Indeed, the World Health Organization has told global citizens that moving toward plant-based diets is best for many reasons, including climate impacts, human health, etc.

However, when we think about what Inuit want to eat, what people in the north say they want to eat, it is not a plant-based diet. Food sovereignty is having the food that people want to eat. Again, when we talk about the diversity of this country, we really need to take that into consideration. It's not just having any food; it's having food that's meaningful to you, to your family and to your health and well-being.

• (1720)

Paul Connors: Going to food security, it's been said that there's a huge northern food insecurity issue. How would you define food security for Nunavut? What would be your definition of having food security in Nunavut?

Amy Caughey: As was previously said, food insecurity is material deprivation. This is an economics issue as well as a food sovereignty issue.

It's important that we recognize the impacts of food insecurity, not only on the people who are food insecure but also on our economy in this country. Food-insecure people get sick more often. They have more infections and they have more infectious disease. In Nunavut, we think about tuberculosis as majorly tied into our situation with food insecurity. People have more chronic conditions when they're food insecure, such as poor mental health, more heart disease and higher blood pressure. They use more health services, and that costs a lot of money. Perhaps there's another committee that also would consider the health economics of food insecurity.

When we think of food security, we see that it goes well beyond having the food. That, to me, is important when we talk about holistic health. It's also important when we talk about the security of our country. Many eyes are on the Arctic right now. This is something that is urgent. It urgently needs to be addressed when we talk about a secure Arctic.

Paul Connors: I think I have about a minute left.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): You have about 45 seconds.

Paul Connors: I'm going to ask a quick question. What infrastructure do you think is most urgently needed to address Nunavut food sovereignty or food security?

Amy Caughey: I'm not sure I can answer that in 45 seconds. We have very high shipping costs, on airfare. That's a huge one. Houses need to be built. Overcrowded housing is completely tied up with food insecurity. That's what our research is showing. That's what Inuit organizations have articulated. We need to address overcrowding within Nunavut to support food security.

We also need things such as research infrastructure. That's where I work, in research. On the weekend, I was sampling seals with my colleagues because we're doing a study on the health of seals and how that impacts food security. We were outside on the ground sampling seals in sleet and rain. It was miserable. It was cold. We were trying to put pieces of seals into bags. That is important research. At that time, we had a discussion around how much more productive we would be if we had a research centre where we could actually be inside doing this.

There are many areas where the infrastructure really is practical and necessary when we support all aspects of the food system.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much.

I did let Mr. Connors and Mr. Bonk go over a bit.

Mr. Perron, do you have one question you would like to ask just to even it up?

[Translation]

Yves Perron: Mr. Lee, you said earlier that the agencies are doing a good job of requiring equivalent standards for foreign products, including dairy products.

What do you think of the recent example of imported raspberries that contained a lot more pesticides than what is allowed in the country? It took us years to realize it. Generally, the comments our producers make, particularly vegetable growers, concern the lack of reciprocity of standards. There is a lack of control. If we want to see what you are saying happen, these agencies would need a lot more resources.

I would like to hear your thoughts on that.

Thank you.

• (1725)

[English]

Ian Lee: I've never ever made the claim that our agencies are perfect, any more than all our professors are perfect, or all our policemen. We're human beings, and we make mistakes.

We have a very good challenge function in our country, we have media and we have MPs like you. When they see something wrong, it comes to the attention of the public. Then we investigate to find out what we have to do to fix it.

I have confidence that in our country, in Canada, we have a very good public service, one of best public services and one of the most educated public services in the world. I have confidence, and it will take time, that they'll do their due diligence and they'll figure out what's wrong. Then they'll come back to the minister and give recommendations to address it.

I'll be very blunt because I've been in so many developing countries. In developing countries, these problems often are just left. They're ignored and they don't get solved. In this country, we do it. We address it. It just takes time and money.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Mr. Lee.

Thank you very much to our colleagues.

Mr. Lee, out of curiosity, have you done any work on the City of Toronto's government-run grocery stores?

Ian Lee: On the government of Toronto's—

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Government-run grocery stores: Have you done work on that?

Ian Lee: No, but I've certainly been doing a lot of reading on it, because I want to do a paper on it.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Okay. When you get that paper done, I'd be really interested in reading it.

Thank you.

Dave Epp: Mr. Chair, on a point of order, given the testimony today, with the OFA's and the UPA's participation in terms of their concern about farmland and their concern about Alto, could I ask Mr. Lee to table his presentation from September 19? I have had a chance to see it with the clerk. This would allow everyone to see the presentation that he gave in Quebec.

Ian Lee: I'll be pleased to, and I have all the sources.

Every graph and every statement of fact is sourced to public sources such as the Chinese railroad corporation, the Japanese railroad corporation and Eurostat and the European railroad. All my statements or graphs are sourced, so you can do your due diligence to reverse engineer and go back and look at the sources. The data is quite stunning.

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Thank you very much, Mr. Lee.

Dave Epp: Do you think we should do an alternate study here at the ag committee?

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): Mr. Epp, you had your time. Thanks. It was a good effort, though.

We have a bit of housekeeping from a previous study. We will excuse our witnesses and then take care of some committee business.

We'll suspend for one minute.

• (1725) _____ (Pause) _____

• (1725)

The Vice-Chair (John Barlow): I call the meeting back to order.

We have a private member's bill, Bill C-226, that has to be reviewed by this committee and completed by November 19. The deadline for the submission of witnesses for the study is the end of the day today. I understand that some parties have their witness lists in and some do not. If you do not have those in, the clock is ticking.

We need to decide on a date for the study. I don't expect it will take more than one meeting, but I'm certainly open. I'm not going to dictate to the committee what you want to do. I would say one day, or two days at the very most. One day is for witnesses, certainly the member, and then there's a discussion on the consideration of the bill itself.

We have our calendars out. We can get this done at any time, colleagues. Do we want to get this going? We already have witnesses for this Thursday. Do we want to start with the first meeting back after the Thanksgiving break? It would be on that Tuesday, which is the 20th. We can try to get it done that week, I think, and then we can move on.

Does it work for everybody if we do it on the 20th? The study of the witnesses is on the 20th, and then we can do the clause-by-clause on the 27th. That gives our analyst and clerk enough time to get everything organized. Does that work for everyone? I see a thumbs-up all around. Perfect.

The deadline for the amendments is a couple of days before. If we're going to do it on the 27th, let's say the deadline is the end of the week, on Thursday, October 22, for any amendments you may have to propose. Honestly, I don't expect there will be anything, but if you have amendments, we'll need them by the end of the day on Thursday, October 22.

Is there a motion to adjourn?

Thank you very much.

Published under the authority of the Speaker of
the House of Commons

SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

The proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees are hereby made available to provide greater public access. The parliamentary privilege of the House of Commons to control the publication and broadcast of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees is nonetheless reserved. All copyrights therein are also reserved.

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the Copyright Act. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the Copyright Act.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

Also available on the House of Commons website at the following address: <https://www.ourcommons.ca>

Publié en conformité de l'autorité
du Président de la Chambre des communes

PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

Les délibérations de la Chambre des communes et de ses comités sont mises à la disposition du public pour mieux le renseigner. La Chambre conserve néanmoins son privilège parlementaire de contrôler la publication et la diffusion des délibérations et elle possède tous les droits d'auteur sur celles-ci.

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la Loi sur le droit d'auteur. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre des communes.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la Loi sur le droit d'auteur.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

Aussi disponible sur le site Web de la Chambre des communes à l'adresse suivante :
<https://www.noscommunes.ca>