



**CRI**

Centre for Regulatory Innovation

## Regulators' Capacity Fund

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) Domestic Food Trade Working Group (DFTWG)

10 January 2022 – 31 March 2022

\$20,000

### *Analysis of global systems that enable domestic meat trade*

Reducing barriers to internal trade is a long-standing priority of the Government of Canada, with an emphasis on food availability and food processing issues. Jurisdiction over agriculture and agri-food is shared among FPT governments. Federal legislation establishes Canada's food safety requirements for interprovincial and export trade and for imports, while provinces and territories maintain food safety legislation and systems that allow facilities to be licensed and to sell within the province or territory.

Red meat from provincially licensed and inspected abattoirs and processors cannot currently be sold interprovincially, which is a barrier to interprovincial trade. Regulatory reforms could be undertaken in Canada to reduce these barriers, which would facilitate higher competition of firms and products across the country by broadening domestic market potential.

In order to provide a path forward to assist regulators in exploring options on how to reduce barriers and further facilitate the interprovincial trade of red meat in Canada without compromising food safety or international trade opportunities and obligations, AAFC conducted a comprehensive analysis of relevant foreign regulatory systems and facilitation programs. They targeted countries with features or programs which facilitate domestic trade of red meat and identified key regulatory requirements for inter-state trade in the U.S. and Australia. In the U.S., the U.S. Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program facilitates internal trade by requiring State inspections to be "the same as" the U.S. federal Food Safety and Inspection Service requirements. In Australia, food standards are established at the federal level for domestic trade between states and exports. Insights from the research conducted will better inform the discussion around interprovincial meat trade and could lead to ideas for further experimentation by provinces and the CFIA.

The project resulted in a project report and a presentation to the FPT DFTWG. This provided FPT partners with an overview of foreign regulatory requirements and facilitation programs which facilitate domestic trade of red meat and relevant lessons for the Canadian context. The project results will serve as background and analysis to a larger interprovincial food trade project that is being led by FPT Governments, driven by an economic motivation to facilitate increased competitiveness of firms wishing to expand interprovincially. The findings of this project were presented to the joint FPT Policy and Regulatory ADMs.