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Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6 OF THE AGREEMENT ON SANITARY  
AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

EXPERIENCES AND APPROACHES TO REGIONALIZATION RELATING TO ANIMAL DISEASES

*Submission from Canada*

The following communication, received on 10 October 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Canada.

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1. The Fourth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/62) includes a recommendation to maintain regionalization as a standing item on the agenda of regular Committee meetings and for Members to provide information on their experiences in the implementation of *Article 6 Adaptation to Regional Conditions, Including Pest- or Disease-Free Areas and Areas of Low Pest or Disease Prevalence*. During the informal meeting of the July 2018 WTO SPS Committee, Canada proposed that Members continue to utilize *Agenda Item - Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement (b) Pest- and Disease-Free Areas (Regionalization)* to exchange information on their experiences with regionalization.

2. In this vein, Canada would like to share information concerning resources that are available regarding Canada's recent experiences and approaches to regionalization.

3. In recent years, Canada has utilized the concept of zoning as an effective tool for disease control as well as to facilitate trade. General information on how Canada uses control zones to manage animal disease risk can be found here:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/control-zones/eng/1402950657191/1402950699325>

4. Canada would also like to highlight information that is available regarding specific disease incidents that Canada has experienced and the risk management activities Canada has taken in response. Specifically, Canada would like to highlight information pertaining to the incidents of Avian Influenza in British Columbia in 2014 and H5N2 Avian Influenza in Ontario in 2015:

- Avian Influenza in British Columbia, 2014:  
<http://inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/ai/disease-incidents/avian-influenza-in-british-columbia-2014/eng/1475593889073/1506003977167>  
Specific information regarding Disease Control Zoning can be found in Section 4.2.
- H5N2 Avian Influenza in Ontario, 2015:  
<http://inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/ai/disease-incidents/h5n2-avian-influenza-in-ontario-2015/eng/1475014329370/1506004050988>  
Specific information regarding the Establishment of Zones can be found in Section 4.2.

5. Canada encourages other Members to share information on their experiences with pest and disease-free areas and hopes that by exchanging information on experiences and approaches to regionalization, Members will be able to enhance their implementation of Article 6.

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