



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Cheese composition standards

CONSERVATIVES ABOUT TO CREATE NEW TOOL TO SIDESTEP SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT THEY SHOULD BE DEFENDING

Ottawa, Thursday, May 10, 2007 – Bloc Québécois Critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food and Member for Richmond–Arthabaska **André Bellavance** had harsh words for the Conservatives, who are going back on their word and preparing to create a new tool to sidestep the supply management system that they should be defending.

“The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, promised dairy producers in February that cheese from here would be made with milk from here. But the regulatory process on cheese composition standards does not cover all products considered as such. The Minister has broken his promise and given companies only new means of dodging supply management and using substitute products,” said **André Bellavance**.

This means that a company could replace milk fat with vegetable fat in a pizza and still call it “cheese pizza,” even though it has nothing to do with mozzarella.

“Like the Liberals before them, the Conservatives are talking out of both sides of their mouth. They are putting supply management at risk, and their inaction is costing dairy producers millions of dollars, \$250 million a year to be exact. No producer will be able to recoup this amount of money, and there is no end in sight,” said **André Bellavance**.

By regulating cheese composition, the Conservative government addressed the concerns of dairy producers and defended a mainstay of the supply management system: the massive import of milk proteins.

“If the Minister was serious when he committed to supporting supply management, when will he take concrete steps to review all of the measures he intends to implement to ensure that cheese remains real cheese? The saga of imports of cheesesticks, butter oils and milk proteins under the Liberals must not be repeated,” said **André Bellavance**.

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