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## Canada

### Tomatoes and Products

# Greenhouse Tomato Growers Refute U.S. Dumping Allegations

## 2001

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**Report Highlights:** Canadian greenhouse tomato growers have formed a trade alliance to refute recent dumping allegations by the U.S. tomato industry. The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers and B.C. Hot House Foods Inc., the marketing arm of B.C. greenhouse tomato growers, issued a strongly worded press release aimed at convincing the U.S. tomato industry not to seek safeguard measures under U.S. trade remedies. The alliance of Canadian greenhouse tomato growers threatens to launch trade action against U.S. tomato exports to Canada if faced with a legal challenge to defend its exports to the United States.

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Summary: Greenhouse tomato growers in British Columbia and Ontario have formed a trade alliance to refute recent dumping allegations by the U.S. tomato industry. Following the Canadian Produce Marketing Association convention held in January, 2001 in Vancouver, the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers and B.C. Hot House Foods Inc., the marketing arm of B.C. greenhouse tomato growers, issued a strongly worded press release aimed at convincing the U.S. tomato industry not to seek safeguard measures under U.S. trade remedies. The alliance of Canadian greenhouse tomato growers threatens to launch trade action against U.S. tomato exports to Canada if faced with a legal challenge to defend its exports to the United States. The text of the press release follows:

Vancouver, B.C., February 12, 2001 - Canadian greenhouse tomato producers say that allegations of dumping being made by U.S. producers are completely without basis.

The Canadian growers also have questions of their own regarding the huge volumes of U.S. product being sold in Canada by U.S. sellers.

That strong message comes from a newly formed trade alliance of Canadian greenhouse tomato producers and marketers established at the recent Canadian Produce Marketing Association convention held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The official spokespeople for the group are Kevin Doran, V.P. of Vancouver-based BC Hot House Foods, Inc. and Denton Hoffman, General Manager of the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers.

According to a report on fresh tomato import and export activities by the U.S. International Trade Commission, there is roughly three times the tonnage of tomatoes coming into Canada from the United States than there is going south of the border from Canada.

“We categorically refute the charge that Canadian producers are dumping,” said Denton Hoffman. “Furthermore, we have some questions of our own as to the huge volumes of U.S. product being sold in Canada by U.S. sellers.”

“We should be pursuing solutions at the governmental level available to us,” Doran said. “Costly legal avenues are of little interest to anyone on either side. However, there is a lot at stake and if necessary we will pursue our Canadian trade remedies to do what is necessary to protect the interests of the Canadian industry and those who have invested in it.”

“It would be unfortunate if an anti-dumping case were to be filed as it would most certainly trigger a response from us that would include trade action against U.S. imports into Canada.” says Kevin Doran. “We are not interested in a first strike,” Doran said, “but if we are pressed, we are ready.”

“The success of Canadian hothouse tomatoes in the U.S. is driven by consumer support and subsequent support by major U.S. retailers,” said Hoffman. “Consumers love our products because we use natural pest management strategies, including no herbicides. Canadian tomatoes are second to none in taste.”

The Canadian group has secured legal counsel with Farris, Vaughan, Willis & murphy in Vancouver and Hogan & Hartson in Washington, D.C. They have also advised government officials about the formation of this new alliance.

End text of press release.

Recent Reports on greenhouse tomatoes and U.S./Canada tomato trade by FAS/Ottawa:

<b>Report Number</b>	<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Date</b>
CA8067	Canadian Greenhouse Tomatoes	10/09/1998
CA8087	Investment in Greenhouse Tomato Production Expands	12/23/1998
CA1023	U.S./Canada Tomato Trade; A Closer Look	2/15/2001

Other Background Reports:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada available online at: <http://www.agr.ca/misb/hort/indexe.html>

1. Profile of the Greenhouse Tomato Industry
2. Overview of the Canadian Horticultural Industry 1999/2000

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