Agribusiness

From food production to international trade obligations, the agribusiness sector faces unique and constant challenges.

The agribusiness sector is woven into Canada's economic, technological and social fabric. Our team has an unparalleled understanding of the sector’s needs and collaborates with specialists in related areas, including:

- corporate law
- mergers & acquisitions
- corporate finance
- tax
- lending
- environmental law
- transportation, including shipping
- international trade
- employment law

Our diverse list of clients includes multinational, small- and mid-sized companies from across the sector, including:

- development and commercialization of agricultural technologies
- seed and chemical manufacturers
- food producers, including food processing
- processors of agricultural commodities
- manufacturers of farming/industrial equipment
- bio-fuel producers
- soft commodities traders
- financial institutions
- the service sector
- wholesale and retail operations

We advise government and private sector clients on trade negotiations under international, domestic and regional trade agreements, including NAFTA and WTO agreements. We regularly appear before WTO panels, arbitrators and the Appellate Body. We also advise governments on the design and implementation of agricultural policies in accordance with international trade obligations.

Experience

- Parrish & Heimbecker, Ltd. on the following matters:
acquisition of 10 Louis Dreyfus Company locations to significantly expand its grain and crop input footprint across Western Canada

- international joint venture with GrainsConnect Canada Inc. and Zen-Noh Grain, to develop, construct and operate new port terminal grain transportation and storage facility.

- acquisition of assets of P&H Foods, a division of Parrish & Heimbecker, Limited by Exceldor Coopérative

- 101249284 Saskatchewan Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary) in its $95 million acquisition of Weyburn Inland Terminal Ltd.

- Finning International Inc. (TSX: FTT), a global industrial equipment dealer, including the sale and servicing of agricultural products, in its $260 million acquisition of 4Refuel from New York private equity investment firm Kelso and Company.

- Tender Choice Foods Inc. and its affiliate, a processor specializing in the processing, packing and distribution of meat products, in its sale of substantially all of the assets and food processing business to Blue Goose Pure Foods Ltd. a privately-held Canadian-based protein and organic food company.

- Sumitomo Corporation, one of the largest worldwide Sogo shosha general trading companies, in their EUR751 million acquisition of Fyffes plc, a Japanese-owned fruit and fresh produce company headquartered in Dublin, Ireland.

- Symrise AG (ETR: SY1), a flavour and fragrance company based in Germany and Diana Group of France in connection with their acquisition of Nutra Canada Inc., a supplier of plant extracts in the food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and natural health product industries.

- VCA, Inc. (NASDAQ: WOOF), one of the largest pet healthcare companies, on their US$9.1 billion acquisition by Mars, Incorporated, a global manufacturer of confectionery, pet food, and other food products and a provider of animal care services.

- Phoenix Imports Inc. in the sale of its business and operations relating to pet food and treats

- Club Coffee, a wholesale distributor of groceries and related products in the sale of a minority position to Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA, the North American operating unit of the Italy-based global coffee roaster and marketer Massimo Zanetti Beverage Group.

- Stag’s Hollow in the sale of its winery business.

- Sunrise Poultry Processors Ltd. in its acquisition of Grand River Foods Ltd., an Ontario-based manufacturer of over 200 private label food products for Canada’s leading grocery, restaurant and food service companies.

- Middleby Corporation (NASDAQ: MIDD) in its acquisition of Crown Food Service Equipment, Ltd., a designer and manufacturer of steam cooking equipment for the commercial foodservice industry

- Unifiller Systems Inc., a leading designer and manufacturer of processing and portioning equipment for bakeries and food plants, in connection with the sale of the business to a US private equity firm

- Deltapac Packaging, a leading manufacturer of plastic bottles servicing the specialty chemical, cosmetic, food and pharmaceutical industries, in connection with their acquisition by Reid Canada

- Styrochem, a leading manufacturer of Expandable Polystyrene grades used in food service, on their acquisition by PMC Capital, a Los Angeles-based private equity firm from Georgia-based WinCup.

- Bloemhof Inc. on Oliver Packaging & Equipment Company’s acquisition of the assets and designs of the Bloemhof product line

- Stone Canyon Industries, LLC and its subsidiary BWAY in their US$2.3 billion acquisition of Mauser Group N.V.
BLG | Canada’s Law Firm

As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 725 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

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