2.7: Country of Origin

Many of the food products sold and consumed in Canada are produced around the world, which is illustrated in Figure 2.7.

*Figure 2.7*: Food sold and consumed in Canada from around the world. Graphic created with icons from the Food Line Icons by Vector Market from the Noun Project and Globe Icon by randomhero from the Noun Project

If a food product is imported from another country, its **country of origin** must be on the label. See **Film Clip 2.1** of Dr. Lisa Seto Nielsen, a registered nurse, speaking about assumptions concerning food that is produced outside of Canada.
Film Clip 2.1: Dr. Lisa Seto Nielsen speaking about assumptions concerning food that is produced outside of Canada

If products are produced in Canada, they must include the name and address of the responsible company. Food products that say “Product of Canada” must follow specific guidelines. For example, a Product of Canada item must have most (generally 98%) of its food, processes, and labour originating in Canada. This means that Product of Canada foods were grown or raised by Canadian farmers and are prepared and packaged by Canadian food companies.

The claim “Made in Canada” means that the manufacturing or processing of the food occurred in Canada. A claim can be made on a label if the last substantial step in processing a product occurred in Canada, regardless of whether the ingredients are domestic or imported. For example, the processing of cheese, dough, sauce, and other ingredients to create a pizza would be considered a substantial step. If the food product contains some food grown by Canadian farmers, it can use the claim “Made in Canada” with domestic and imported ingredients. If all of the ingredients have been imported, it can use the claim “Made in Canada” from imported ingredients.

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