

SCCD AGM: New members elected to SCCD Board of Directors; \$4.4 million committed to Saskatchewan agriculture projects

Saskatoon (July 6, 2006) – Five new members were elected to the Board of Directors of The Saskatchewan Council for Community Development Inc. (SCCD) at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), held Friday, June 23, 2006 in Regina.

Five of the seven Board of Directors positions were up for election, with Valerie Pearson (representing Saskatchewan 4-H Council) and Murray Purcell (representing the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) each heading into the second year of their two-year terms. The five new Board members, and the member organizations they represent, are:

- Dr. Ashley O’Sullivan – Ag-West Bio Inc.
- Ms. Celine Favreau – Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association
- Mr. Darrell Schneider – Saskatchewan Food Processors Association Inc.
- Mr. Garth Patterson – Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
- Mr. Neil Ketilson – Saskatchewan Pork Development Board

Garth Patterson has been elected Chair of the Board of Directors, while Valerie Pearson has been re-elected to the Vice-Chair position.

“These people represent important organizations in Saskatchewan’s agriculture and agri-food industry,” said Laurie Dmytryshyn, SCCD Executive Director. “This is a great group of individuals who will bring solid leadership and a commitment to community and agricultural development within Saskatchewan. I look forward to working with them to advance the mission and vision of SCCD.”

SCCD also said goodbye to the former Chair of SCCD and the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) Committee, Louis Hradecki, who had been with the organization since 1994. He was an instrumental part of many key initiatives of ACAAFS and its predecessor, the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan (CARDS) program, including *Growing Saskatchewan* magazine, ENCORE 2004, and the Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chains Initiative.

“Louis’ belief in and dedication to SCCD was a big part of our success,” said Laurie Dmytryshyn, SCCD Executive Director. “He was a driving force behind the ACAAFS and CARDS programs. He was a strong advocate for progress in the agriculture and agri-food sector, and his contributions within SCCD will be remembered fondly.”

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SCCD AGM: \$4.4 million committed to Saskatchewan agriculture projects

The future of Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector looks brighter thanks to a commitment of \$4,442,066 from the ACAAFS Committee of the SCCD, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006. These figures were revealed at the 2006 SCCD AGM.

The 130 funded projects committed to in 2005-2006 were approved under the ACAAFS program and its predecessor, the CARDS program. Both of these grant programs are funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Projects funded this year included a project by MCN Bioproducts to turn crushed canola into high-grade protein; the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Agricultural Economics for a project on the sustainability of prairie agriculture; and the Saskatchewan Food Processors Association for their Saskatchewan Made Branding Program. Of the 58 projects approved under ACAAFS in 2005-2006, 21 are Collective Outcome projects, which are multi-regional projects that will impact more than one province or region. A total of \$845,125 was committed to Collective Outcome projects in 2005-2006.

Since CARDS began in 1996, SCCD has approved funding for over 900 projects for a commitment of over \$20.6 million. Since the ACAAF program began in 2004, funding has been allocated for 65 projects for a commitment of \$3.3 million. This funding has also been used to leverage funding from other sources, making the total impact of these projects on Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector significant.

The ACAAF program is a five year, \$243 million program designed to position Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector at the leading edge to capture new opportunities. Saskatchewan's share of the ACAAF program is \$3,227,845 annually, with an additional \$484,177 for Collective Outcome projects.

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