
ACS elects new Board Chair and changes name

Saskatoon (September 14, 2007) - The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) has elected producer Murray Purcell to the position of Chair of the Board of Directors, while re-electing Valerie Pearson to the Vice-Chair position and Darrell Schneider to the Secretary/Treasurer position. This comes on the heels of a name change for the organization, which was previously known as the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development Inc. (SCCD).

ACS members approved the name change at the June 22, 2007 Annual General Meeting. As ACS Executive Director Laurie Dmytryshyn explains, this new name accurately reflects the core activities of the organization and the membership base.

“The ACS vision and mission is to provide leadership and programming to advance the agriculture and agri-food sector, contributing to a healthy Saskatchewan community,” said Dmytryshyn. “The ACS Board of Directors felt that we have evolved into an organization with more of an agricultural focus, and they thought that a name change was very critical in terms of being recognized as an agricultural organization.”

ACS will continue to offer much of the same programming, including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada funded programs like the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program and the Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI). ACS will also continue to be home to the Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chains Initiative and the Centre for Agribusiness Training and Education (CATE). To date, the ACS Board has approved 159 projects for an ACAAFS commitment of \$8,712,887 and 11 BOPI projects for a BOPI Commitment of \$1,888,863.

Murray Purcell, who has served on the ACS Board of Directors since 2003, is a farmer from Pike Lake, Saskatchewan. He represents the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), on which he serves on the Board as a Director for District 5. He has been Reeve or Councillor for the RM of Montrose No. 315 since 1993. Mr. Purcell serves on the Biofuels Advisory Group of ACS as well as the ACAAFS Advisory Group.

Valerie Pearson is the Executive Director of Saskatchewan 4-H Council and has served on the ACS Board of Directors since 2005. She is currently the Chair of the ACAAFS Advisory Group for ACS.

Darrell Schneider is the Chief Operating Officer of the Saskatchewan Food Processors Association. He was elected to the ACS Board of Directors in 2006 and is Chair of the Audit Committee.

ACS welcomes Murray Purcell to the position of chair and looks forward to his leadership and guidance. ACS would also like to thank Board member Garth Patterson of the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers for his dedication and outstanding service as chair over the past year.

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