



News Release

For immediate release

CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT INVESTS OVER \$117,000 TO STUDY BIOFUEL PRODUCTION IN NORTH BATTLEFORD

NORTH BATTLEFORD, Saskatchewan, May 24, 2007 – The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism and Member of Parliament for Battlefords–Lloydminster, on behalf of the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, today announced that Canada's New Government is investing over \$117,000 to study biofuel production in North Battleford.

"We are proud to announce an investment of funding in a biofuels project that could lead to new opportunities for the agricultural community in North Battleford," said MP Gerry Ritz. "By expanding in new biofuels opportunities across the country, Canada's New Government is getting things done for producers, rural communities and the environment."

Through the Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI), Western Bio Fuels Inc. is receiving funding to develop a feasibility study for the development of a biodiesel facility in their area that could be a locally owned co-operative, benefiting local farmers and the community.

"We are pleased to be administering Saskatchewan's share of BOPI funding on behalf of the Government of Canada," said Murray Purcell, Chair of the Biofuels Advisory Group of the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development. "Because of the BOPI program, new value-added opportunities exist for many Saskatchewan communities. This funding will help provide the base for a strong and diverse agriculture and agri-food sector."

BOPI is a \$20 million commitment by Canada's New Government designed to provide farmers and rural communities with opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, increased Canadian biofuels production. The initiative helps agricultural producers develop sound business proposals, as well as undertake feasibility or other studies to support the creation and expansion of biofuel production capacity. It is delivered through the industry councils in the provinces and territories that administer Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program.

In Budget 2007, Canada's New Government allocated \$2 billion over seven years to support the production of renewable fuels. In addition, since coming to office this government has announced \$500 million to assist farmers and rural communities to seize new market opportunities in the bio-economy through biofuels and bio-products initiatives.



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