

News release

Government of Canada Invests to Advance Leadership in Agriculture

Brandon, Manitoba, November 17, 2011 – The future of leadership in agriculture in Canada continues to grow stronger thanks to the support of the Government of Canada. MP Merv Tweed (Brandon-Souris), on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, announced today an investment of \$181,000 to Nuffield Canada to pilot its new educational agriculture leadership scholarship program.

“Our Government’s top priority is the economy, and Canada’s young farmers are vital to fostering growth in our agriculture industry,” said MP Tweed. “Our Government’s investment in this program will help increase agricultural leadership and an international perspective among young farmers leading to a more profitable agricultural sector in Canada.”

This investment will enable Nuffield Canada to revamp their prestigious leadership program, which has been offered in Canada for over 50 years. The \$15,000 scholarships are awarded each year to farmers who are judged to have the greatest potential to create value for themselves, their industries and their communities. With a new, more focused curriculum, Nuffield Canada will develop educational programming that will equip scholars to take on leadership roles within the agricultural sector and make it more globally competitive by fostering international linkages.

“This investment will allow our 2011-2012 scholars to participate in a new pilot project and their experience will help remodel the Nuffield Program,” said Nuffield Chair Barry Cudmore. “This revitalization of the program will increase Nuffield Canada’s stature amongst the global Nuffield organization, and will lead to future growth in the program and its positive impact on Canadian agriculture. As Chair of Nuffield Canada, I want to thank Minister Ritz for this opportunity and wish our pilot scholars all the best as they move forward in this project.”

This investment is from Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP), a five-year (2009-2014), \$163-million program with the objective of facilitating the agriculture industry’s ability to seize opportunities, respond to new and emerging issues, and test solutions to new and ongoing issues.

The Next Phase of Canada’s Economic Action Plan, coupled with other Government of Canada programs and initiatives such as CAAP, continues to help farmers by focusing on creating jobs and strengthening the economy. Investments in new and emerging market opportunities will help build an even stronger agriculture industry and Canadian economy for the future.

For more information on CAAP, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/caap.

For more information, media may contact:

Media Relations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Ottawa, Ontario

613-773-7972

1-866-345-7972

Meagan Murdoch

Director of Communications

The Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz

613-773-1059