

## **Nuffield Canada Report** **By Kelvin Meadows, Chair and 2011 Scholar**



Nuffield Canada held another successful Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and once again we partnered with the AgEx Conference which is aimed at increasing the visibility of both programs.

Our evening dinner was capped off with presentations from our three reporting scholars Tim Smith, Clair Doan and Tony Balkwill. There was also an opportunity to present our four incoming scholars who represent the grain, beef and viticulture industries. Our 2018 scholars are Shelley Spruit (sponsored by Glacier Farm Media), Ellen Crane (sponsored by Nuffield Alumni), Gavin Robertson (sponsored by Nuffield Alumni) and Josh Oulton (sponsored by Nuffield Alumni) who then had the opportunity to meet and hear from other alumni about their experiences and how the Nuffield opportunity can change their world perspective.

Our AGM had attendance from across Canada. As well as conducting required business, we had the opportunity to award Jim Halford, Art Petkau and Kelvin and Shelley Meadows with the William Morris award in recognition of their contributions to Nuffield Canada.



**L-R: Tony Balkwill, Clair Doan, Tim Smith (2017 Scholars) and Chair Kelvin Meadows (2011 Scholar)**

Once again, Nuffield International CEO Jim Geltch was kind enough to attend our annual event and we thank him for his remarks and participation during the AGM. This year's discussions revolved around how we can continue to grow our program while identifying and surfacing strong candidates to fill the available scholarships on offer. It was noted that Canada would continue to support the Australian-led Global Focus Program by hosting one of the tours in early April. This AGM also saw Kelvin Meadows stand down as Chair of the Canadian board to take on the role of International Chair while incoming director Ian McPhadden will replace him as the new Chairman in Canada.

The afternoon finished with a tour of the parliament buildings and an opportunity to experience the nation's capital during Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Due to the size of our country, agriculture in Canada is always a mixed bag when it comes to the vagaries of weather and yields and this year was no different. The bigger concerns for an export driven country are distance to market as well as the outcomes of trade talks such as NAFTA and the crippled TTP discussions. Also, the proposed changes to national policy around small businesses taxation has many in the agricultural sector worried about how they will pass on family farms or wind down their businesses to support retirement after a lifetime of risk and hard work. The third issue is the same one that many countries face and that is access to qualified labour. The continued market driven consolidation of farming enterprises has not dampened opportunity and there continues to be strong employment demand across all sectors of agriculture with an emphasis on skills to support automation. I believe that Nuffield has a part to play in shaping the discussion around food production and wish to congratulate this year's new scholars who are willing to open themselves to the challenge.

I would like to close by thanking our Executive director Shannon McArton for her commitment to the program as well as the alumni board and committees that support the Canadian program and continue to make it a success.

#### **Welcoming Incoming Chair Ian McPhadden**



Ian McPhadden has been involved in developing Saskatchewan agricultural economy for many years. After studying agriculture and geology at the University of Saskatchewan, Ian worked as a geologist for a number of years until the opportunity came for him to take over the family farm. He ran a successful grain operation until his retirement in 2006. Ian was selected as one of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers in 1988 and later served as chairperson for the national organization.

In 1990, he was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship to study and report on farming practices in Australia and Europe. He served as a director with the Canadian Nuffield Association and now currently serves as Chairman for the Canadian chapter. Ian served as CEO for Prairie Malt and has been involved in numerous producer groups including the Pulse Growers and Canola Growers Associations. He sat on the Ag West Bios board of directors from 2001-2009 until taking on the roll of president. Ian was a participant in the Canadian Agricultural Lifetime Leadership program (CALL) from 2000-2002. He was part owner of a John Deere dealership and a founding director of a pulse processing plant. For over 25 years Ian has hosted students from around the world through the International Agriculture Exchange Association (IAEA). Ian continues to be a strong voice for the agricultural community and looks forward to his new role with Nuffield.