



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INVESTS IN YOUNG SPEAKERS FOR AGRICULTURE

OTTAWA, March 15, 2010 - The Government of Canada is investing in young farmers and the future of agriculture with a \$100,000 commitment to the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture. Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced the funding in partnership with the Canadian 4-H Council.

“Our Government is working to give young people opportunities in agriculture,” said Minister Ritz. “This contribution will help emerging leaders hone their communications skills and spread the message about Canadian agriculture.”

The only competition of its kind in Canada, Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture brings together youth from across Canada to speak and debate on emerging issues in the Canadian agricultural industry. Last year, the competition marked its 25th anniversary with more than 20 representatives from across the country competing in both junior and senior competition levels. Funding for CYSA will be used to promote outreach and support for past and future competitors and enhance competition-day activities.

“The future of Canadian agriculture depends on our youth and giving them the opportunity to exchange ideas to grow our industry,” said Ted Young, CYSA Chairman. “We are very pleased with the commitment from this Minister to help expand this national speaking competition.”

“The Canadian 4-H Council is proud to help Canadian agricultural youth succeed in their endeavours,” said Judy Shaw, President of the Canadian 4-H Council. “This contribution will help to encourage youth interested in agriculture to be the best they can be.”

The support for the competition is being funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s \$3.1-million investment for the Canadian 4-H Council, as part of the Business Development program of *Growing Forward*, the federal-provincial-territorial initiative aimed at building a profitable sector for all farmers across the country.

The Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition is held annually at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto each November. To find out more, please visit <http://www.cysa-joca.ca/>.

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