

Media Release

Crop Sector Working Group Hires Policy Manager

July 7, 2009 (Edmonton, AB) - The Alberta Crop Sector Working Group (CSWG) announced the appointment of Sharon McKinnon to the position of Policy Program Coordinator.

McKinnon has a BSc. and MSc. in Agriculture with extensive experience in policy development with the Alberta government and with farm groups. McKinnon will work closely with agriculture industry producers, government staff and non-governmental organizations to encourage and promote strategic management, facilitate discussions and coordinate and develop policies and practices of the CSWG members in relation to environmental issues. Part of the position will involve supporting the agriculture representatives on the Regional Advisory Councils of the Land-use Framework.

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission, the Alberta Barley Commission and the Alberta Pulse Growers commissioned the Alberta Crop Environmental Strategy report in 2007 to assess the environmental policy needs of the Alberta crop sector. The CSWG was created as part of the Strategy to provide a means to manage policy issues in the areas of water, wetlands, land use, climate change, research and stewardship.

The CSWG is an inclusive partnership of Alberta crop sector organizations committed to addressing and aligning agriculture and environmental policies and priorities in the province. CSWG members include potato, sugar beet, winter wheat, soft wheat, canola, barley and pulse growers. McKinnon's position is jointly funded by the Alberta Barley Commission, Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund.

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