

**SPEECH FOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
PIERRE LEMIEUX,
IFAJ CONGRESS
DELTA, GUELPH, ON SEPT. 14, 2011**

- Thank you, Myrna [President, Canadian Farm Writers Federation]
- On behalf of:
 - Prime Minister Harper; and
 - Minister of Agriculture Gerry Ritz
- welcome to all agricultural journalists who have travelled to Guelph from around the world and across Canada.
- *[Merci Myrna [présidente, Canadian Farm Writers Federation]*
- *Au nom :*
 - *du premier ministre Harper*
 - *et du ministre de l'Agriculture Gerry Ritz*

- *je souhaite la bienvenue à tous les journalistes agricoles du Canada et du monde entier qui se sont rendus à Guelph.]*
- Agriculture and journalism have an important relationship – a relationship well understood by Minister Ritz, as he used to be in the newspaper business himself!
- Canada is certainly proud to host to the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists Congress for 2011.
- *[Le Canada est très fier de tenir le congrès 2011 de la Fédération internationale des journalistes agricoles.]*
- I'd like to extend a warm welcome to those francophone journalists who are with us today.

- Farmers of French descent have contributed to the growth of our agriculture industry not only in Quebec but across Canada.
- We hope you enjoy your stay and earn an appreciation of the excellence of Canadian agriculture.
- *[Nous tenons à accueillir chaleureusement tous les journalistes francophones ici présents. Le Canada est fier de son patrimoine français. Les agriculteurs de descendance française ont contribué à l'essor de notre secteur agricole non seulement au Québec, mais partout au Canada. Nous espérons que votre séjour vous plaira et que vous apprécierez l'excellence du secteur agroalimentaire canadien à sa juste valeur.]*

- You are all in for a treat over the next few days as you experience our innovative Canadian food products -- and the world-class farm businesses which bring it to kitchen tables around the world.
- Canada is a trading nation – we are the world’s fifth largest agriculture and food exporter, and sixth largest importer.
- Our agriculture and food sector is well-positioned to meet customer demands the world over, whether for food products or food ingredients.
- That quality is backed by our hardworking farm families across Canada.
- It’s backed by a strong culture of innovation and research.
- And it’s backed by a world-class, rigorous food safety system.

- As agricultural communicators, you all have a critical role in getting out the story to your audiences, which in some cases may be a long way removed from the farm.
- We need to make sure the public knows the vital contribution that our farmers are making when they bring safe, high-quality food to consumers around the world.
- Today, that link to the farmer is more critical than ever, given the plight facing many of our fellow human beings who are suffering from rising food prices and hunger.
- Canada's position is that the best route to global food security is threefold:
 1. A strong and profitable farm gate backed up by government policies that "put farmers first";

2. A firm commitment to investment in science and innovation to give farmers the tools they need to feed the world; and
 3. Free and market-based trade that is grounded sound science.
- This is the message that Minister Ritz delivers when he's meeting with the world's agriculture ministers at different international forums --
 - the Agriculture G20; or
 - the FAO; or
 - the Cairns Group which Canada hosted in Saskatchewan last week.
 - Of course, for those regions in most dire need, such as the Horn of Africa, we need to act immediately.

- The Canadian Government is matching all donations from Canadians to alleviate this urgent situation, dollar-for-dollar.
- Furthermore, Canada is among the leading contributors to the World Food Programme.
- The planet's food producers have a challenge before them to be sure – to feed a growing population, with limited resources and the uncertainty of climate change, while safeguarding our environment.
- We've all seen the statistics -- that we have to double food production over the next **forty (40)** years to meet demand -- without any significant increase in our arable land base.

- Well, I have no doubt the world's farmers can deliver on that demand, as long as they have the tools they need to keep their businesses profitable and innovative.
- That is why the Government of Canada is working hard domestically and globally to put Farmers First by supporting innovation, sustainable agricultural practices and fair, science-based trade.
- We know farmers can meet global food security challenges.
- Over recent decades, they have been steadily increasing the production of food in the world.
- They have been doing their job.
- Now we as governments need to do ours.

- We need to put protectionism on the back burner and take down all non-scientific barriers to trade.
- Last week in Saskatoon, Cairns ministers renewed their commitment to free trade.
- They resolved to continue to push for an ambitious outcome at the World Trade Organization.
- At the same time, Canada continues to pursue an active bilateral trade agenda with key trading partners like the European Union, India, South Korea, Japan and others.
- Farmers shouldn't have to pay for the inefficiencies created by trade obstacles.
- And they need fair prices for what they deliver if we expect them to produce more and invest in the future.

- This means that we must increase agriculture yields in a major way to meet the challenge of the future.
- The Green Revolution – inspired by Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug – has shown us what farmers can do given the opportunity.
- And they can do it again for us. They can lead a new Green Revolution -- if we ensure they have access to the leading-edge tools that science has to offer.
- That is why Canada, along with more than **thirty (30)** countries around the world, has formed the Global Research Alliance.

- Our goal is to deliver innovative solutions to help farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions from farming and to adopt and expand sustainable agricultural practices.
- Canada has been one of the driving forces behind the GRA.
- Yesterday in Nova Scotia, in fact, we announced our fourth investment under our GRA commitment.
- This exciting project at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College will develop new tools for farmers to apply nitrogen fertilizer more efficiently, to safeguard the environment and improve their bottom line.
- As well as developing new technologies, we also have to find a way to get those technologies in the hands of farmers around the world.

- Canada is doing this through science and cooperation agreements with countries like India – but also through the exchanges that arise from our trade agreements with countries like Peru and Colombia.
- At the same time, we are committed to sharing our resources and knowledge with those around the world who desperately need it.
- For instance, we have invested **13 million dollars (\$13M)** to combat UG 99, a wheat stem rust that poses a severe threat to global wheat production.
- And we're sharing the important and crucial scientific work we do with reporters like you who can get the information out to those who need it.

- Feeding the hungry is about more than money, it is about getting real help where it is needed, when it is needed.
- We must continue efforts to accelerate scientific research in order to feed the population of the planet.
- We must continue to work, as global partners, to ensure that farmers in developing countries will have new markets for their crops and the chance to build stronger rural communities.
- By supporting innovation, sustainable agricultural practices and fair, science-based trade, we know our farmers can meet global food security challenges.
- On behalf of Minister Ritz, I thank you all for your interest in Canadian agriculture.

- I hope you taste and discover Canada's agriculture sector and then share our story with your audiences back home. Have a great conference.
- *[Nous devons continuer de travailler en tant que partenaires mondiaux pour faire en sorte que les agriculteurs des pays en développement aient de nouveaux marchés pour leurs cultures et la chance de bâtir des collectivités rurales plus fortes.*
- *En favorisant l'innovation, les pratiques agricoles durables et le commerce fondé sur la science, nous nous assurons que nos agriculteurs peuvent relever les défis de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.*
- *Au nom du ministre Ritz, je vous remercie tous de l'intérêt que vous portez à l'agriculture canadienne.*

- *J'espère que vous apprécierez et découvrirez le secteur agricole du Canada et que vous ferez ensuite part de votre expérience à vos auditoires. Je vous souhaite une conférence couronnée de succès.]*