

Agricultural Institute of Canada  
Foundation  
Annual Report 2000





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I am pleased to report on behalf of the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation and the Board of Governors.

The Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation (AICF) was founded in 1986 as a non-profit foundation, created to improve public awareness of agriculture and its role in the Canadian economy. The importance of agriculture and agri-business continues to be paramount with the AICF, but it is also evolving to develop closer linkages and partnerships with the member organizations of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC). The AICF funds a wide range of activities including the Klinck Lectures, Douglas McRorie Scholarships, leadership programs, University Ag. Challenges, historical publications and collections, conferences and forums. The AICF accepts funds from individuals and organizations as charitable donations. In addition, our fund raising efforts include auctions and the sale of Rural Roots prints and publications.

The Board of governors are appointed from the Provincial Institutes, Scientific Societies, and the AIC.

During the past year the AICF has been involved in streamlining it's administration, structure and governance procedures. This will ensure ready access to programs, expanded activities, as well as a closer working relationship with the member organizations. These new directions will be reflected in the revisions to the AICF's By-laws that will be presented at the annual general meeting in Guelph.

The Klinck Lecture program was redesigned this past year to allow greater flexibility and to provide wider access by the diverse organizations that make up the AICF. The Foundation now cost-shares public forums or lectures organized by the member organizations with grants of \$500.00 for up to 10 lectures per year. The grants are provided on a first come basis and must be used for programs open to the public and they must give recognition to AICF support. A good example of this concept was the "Agriculture & Climate Change" forum held in conjunction with the B.C. Institute of Agrologists' annual meeting in April.

I am most pleased to report on the new agreement between the AICF and the Royal Bank Financial Group Foundation, for the continuation of the Douglas McRorie Memorial Scholarship for another 5 years. A total of 6 scholarships of \$1500.00 will be available each year, for post-graduate students studying agriculture business/commerce. The Douglas McRorie Scholarship was first established in 1990 and the ongoing support of the Royal Bank is most appreciated. Their support reflects their commitment to the development of leadership and academic excellence in agriculture. Details will be announced at the AICF luncheon at Guelph.

The AICF is also committed to agriculture leadership development and has again provided sponsorship to the University Ag. Challenges 2001 Program. This annual event involves top agriculture students exchanging ideas in both an educational and competitive format. The University of Guelph, during the AIC conference, is hosting the 2001 event.

AICF has also provided support to the relocation of the "Rural Heritage Collection" from the Ontario Agriculture Museum to the University of Guelph Library. This collection of valuable agricultural archival and library material is now being preserved for the future.



AICF President  
**Wayne Wickens, P.Ag.**

### **Board of Governors Executive**

George Arnold, P.Ag., Priority Planning Committee Chair, (ON)

Phil England P.Ag. Vice President (SK)

Brenda Machin, P.Ag., Scholarship Committee Chair (SK)

Dan Rose, P.Ag., Secretary (ON)

Larry Rosevear, P.Ag., Treasurer (ON)

Sandy Todd, P.Ag. (NF)

Secretariat support was arranged with the AIC office and is provided by Carrie Whipple and Jean Sullivan, A.Ag.

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The Board of Governors has spent considerable time during the past year furthering its planning process and striving to find ways to gain greater awareness while better meeting its objectives. The AICF struggles with a low profile, even within the AIC organization, with low funding and financial resources and with a lack of an effective mechanism to communicate our goals and needs. The ongoing planning process is essential to AICF's continued success, to meet new challenges and to seek new opportunities and input. A new communication plan will be implemented to address this matter including accessing the newsletters and websites of all member organizations of AIC with activity reports, information articles, and Foundation updates. I hope that through greater member awareness and understanding of AICF and its functions, more members will be able to access, promote, and actively support its goals and programs.

A new venture currently in the planning process is to put out a call for papers and ultimately host a symposium looking at the issue of agriculture nutrient management and rural water quality. The call for papers will be initiated shortly with plans to host the symposium in 2002. The details regarding timing, location, and partnerships will be forthcoming later this year. The project will be designed to target municipal and senior government personnel, agrologists and others in the agriculture community, including farm leaders and other interested parties.

I am very pleased to have the counsel of a strong, knowledgeable and enthusiastic Board of Governors and look forward to working with them in the coming year. Our numbers are relatively few and I ask the member organizations to work with us and for their support, advice, direction and endorsement to move the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation forward. I firmly believe our strength must come from within and by working together in a mutually supportive framework we can better achieve our respective goals. I would be remiss if I did not thank my Board of Governors for their guidance, hard work and commitment over the past year. Thank you too, to the cooperative AIC office staff, especially Carrie Whipple and Jean Sullivan.

Respectfully submitted,

W.E.A. Wickens, P.Ag.