

Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation

President's Report

A major achievement of the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation in 1997 was the development and publication of brochures and materials on the Foundation and the Planned Giving Program. These brochures have by now been circulated to all members of the AIC and Member Organizations, with the assistance of the Member Organizations. This completes the materials required for the Foundation to have a full-fledged fund raising campaign among its members and the corporate world within the agricultural community.

The Foundation continues to offer scholarships to each of the eight agricultural faculties within Canada. The procedures for granting the scholarships are being streamlined so that they will become a part of each University's calendar and be available to students in disciplines other than agricultural economics.

At the Annual Meeting held in Truro, Nova Scotia, August 1997, the Board of Governors gave the Executive direction to investigate the hiring of a part-time Fund Raising Coordinator that could coordinate and assist the volunteers with fund raising for the Foundation. Before advertising for a coordinator from the general public the executive has directed the request to each of the Member Organizations to determine the level interest among the PAgS within the organization.

The Foundation continues to support the Advanced Agricultural Farm Leadership Program and numerous other organizations having an educational role in agriculture. Another successful Agrologist-in-Residence program was conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College, in 1997, in collaboration with the Ontario Institute of Agrologists. I would personally like to see other universities and Provincial Institutes try to duplicate the Agrologist-in-Residence Program at their local agricultural faculties.

I would like to thank the chairs of committees of the Foundation. Clint McLean, PAg, Education; Terry Kremenjuk, PAg, Priority Planning; Resby Coutts, PAg Klinck Lecture and Vice President; Dan Rose, PAg, Secretary; and Larry Rose-vear, PAg, Treasurer. Other members of the Executive are George Arnold, PAg, and Phil England, PAg. I would like to also thank the other members of the Board of Governors for their valuable input. I would be remiss if I did not thank the AIC office staff for their help and Brenda Trask, PAg, our Administrative Coordinator, for her great assistance.

I indicated at the beginning of this past year that this would be my last year as President of the AIC Foundation. It has, for me, been a rewarding and often challenging position as we have attempted to steer a course for the future that will make the Foundation a viable and important instrument of the Member Organizations who created it. It requires the strong support of the membership and more importantly, it requires a strong and committed Board of Governors.

I thank the Foundation for the opportunity to serve for 10 years as a Governor, Secretary and President. I hope the Foundation is better for my having been there. But time passes, and it is time for someone else with new visions to carry on the challenge.

Alan Bentley, PAg