



Dear Members,

Food safety has dominated the headlines in recent weeks. I invite you to read our related commentary on Food Safety and the Wise Use of the Agri-Resource Base at www.aic.ca.

Myles Frosst, CEO

Investing in Science and Professional Expertise

Prior to the national election call, AIC worked, in the context of federal pre-budget consultations, with like-minded scientific and professional associations to raise the profile of science, innovation and knowledge transfer, especially as it pertains to contemporary agriculture. The election, and the budget consultations that will follow, provide more opportunity to drive home the importance of investing in the right policy mix to build the human resource capacity required if Canadians are to profitably and sustainably maximize the commercial and societal benefits that can be derived from the agri-resource base.

The policy mix includes the *Growing Forward* science and innovation initiatives agreed to by the federal and provincial governments. But at the federal level at least, building the scientific and professional platform for contemporary agriculture is a "whole of government" challenge and includes:

- support for universities and colleges which train the next generation of skilled personnel in the many ag-related sciences and professions and who provide the basis for a successful knowledge-based sector and an outstanding academic and public research enterprise
- reinvestment in essential, high quality scientific and professional capability within government departments and agencies
- investment / tax incentives all along the knowledge value chain
- investment in international science partnerships
- investment in the long-term sustainability of Canada's major research facilities and
- networks including increased support for research infrastructure in federal laboratories
- translation of research into innovation.

Whatever the results of the election, we must all continue to present the case for the right incentives to correct existing and future human resource shortages in the sciences and professions that make possible the best use of the agri-resource base here and abroad.

Welcome CSBE



AIC is pleased to welcome the Canadian Society of Bio-Engineering (CSBE) as a new association member.

CSBE is dedicated to the engineering of biosystems. Bioengineering, as a discipline, encompasses a number of fields involving biosystems and their environments. Biosystems can range in scale from microbes to Earth's entire biosphere and beyond into Space.

Bioengineers are part of the wide range of professionals seeking to ensure sustainable use of the agri-resource base. Accordingly they look forward to working with other experts and scientists through AIC.

CSBE publishes the journal *Canadian Biosystems Engineering*. AIC is taking on publication of the journal for CSBE in the near future.

For further information on CSBE, visit <http://www.bioeng.ca>.

Nominating Committee Report

The Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) Nominating Committee, chaired by Dale Kelly, PAg, has completed its work and submitted its report as stipulated in the AIC By-Laws. The committee was tasked with nominating two Directors and is pleased to present its candidates, W. Ross Purdy, PAg and John C. Stewart, PAg, LLB.

In accordance with the By-Laws, the Nominating Committee invites groups of any five (5) voting members of the AIC to submit further nominations for the office of director. These nominations must be delivered to the head office of the AIC no later than October 7th, and must include the biographical

sketch and consent of the nominee to stand for election. Nominations should be sent by e-mail to mfrosst@aic.ca or by fax, Attention Myles Frosst, at 613-594-5190.

W. Ross Purdy, PAg

Ross was born and raised on a mixed farm operation with purebred Black Angus cattle about 50 miles north west of Edmonton; he obtained his degree in agriculture from the University of Alberta, and an MBA from Athabasca University. He has been a Professional Agrolgist since 1976, and has worked



his whole career in the agriculture marketplace. He has been employed by Alberta Agriculture, Bank of Nova Scotia, Deloitte Management Consultants and has operated the family farm. Ross has been with BMO since 1984 as their Senior Manager Agriculture &

Agribusiness in Alberta.

In Ross' role with BMO, he assists his agriculture and agribusiness clients with proper structuring of loans, and he provides information to bank staff regarding farm issues, prices, trends, and impact of the bank's portfolio on risks in agriculture. He visits and talks to over 150 clients each year, and assists with analysis of business plans and forecasts, and provides insight into present and future markets for agriculture commodities and how they may impact his clients.

Prior to changes to the Alberta Institute of Agrolgist's Act, Ross was active as a member of AIA as well as on the Executive on the Red Deer Branch of the Institute.

Ross is involved with the agriculture and food industries in a number of areas and is a member of several associations and groups.

Ross has always placed a high value and recognizes the importance of the agriculture and food segments to the overall economy. If elected he will strive to ensure the direction and mandate of AIC is adhered to in this rapidly changing agriculture industry and its interface with urban Canada. He truly believes it is imperative that there is a better understanding between the farm and the consumer of food and other products produced by the industry.

John C. Stewart, PAg, LLB

John was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1958 and received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba in 1980.

John and his two brothers started a grain farm in Poplar Point, Manitoba in 1980, which operation continues today. He worked for six years in oil and gas exploration in both the Canadian Arctic and

offshore in South America. In 1986 Mr. Stewart formed Stewart Ag Services, an agricultural consulting firm that assisted in re-organizing and restructuring agricultural operations in financial difficulty.

In 1989 John entered the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba and graduated with an LL.B in 1992. He was called to the Manitoba Bar in 1993.

John has been a member in good standing of the Manitoba Institute of Agrolgists since 1990 and was President of the Institute in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

John joined Dr. Charles Framingham, B.Sc.Ag, PhD, LLB in a private law practice in 1993 focusing primarily in the law relating to agriculture. John's work was primarily in corporate and commercial transactions, receiverships, financing, real estate conveyancing and commercial re-organizations.

Presently John is a partner at the law firm of D'Arcy & Deacon LLP in Winnipeg, Manitoba and practices Commercial Law. His practice has expanded to include more complex corporate and commercial transactions, with particular emphasis on agri-business concerns, acting for international grain companies, chemical companies, and integrated livestock corporations.



Mr. Stewart also serves on the executives of numerous not-for-profit organizations and associations, and actively farms at Poplar Point, Manitoba.

Mr. Stewart is married and has four children.

John believes that the strength of our profession is grounded in the integrity of the science of agriculture. AIC serves as the central organization facilitating publication of the professional journals and organizing the interaction between our various scientific societies. John believes that all members of our profession (farmers to physicists, from genetic and organic researchers to soil plant and animal scientists, lawyers, accountants and engineers) must support AIC to maintain the foundation of our science and act as the central organization coordinating national issues in agrolgy.

John recognizes that there is both a need for, and AIC is primed to be, the national voice of such dedicated scientists, other professionals and their institutions. This is especially the case given AIC's heritage and its new vision. It is critical that AIC facilitate both the collective ingenuity and individual imagination required to advance the art, science and business of contemporary agriculture.