



## Media Release

February 22, 2022

Newfoundland and Labrador's agriculture industry is celebrating [Canada's Agriculture Day](#) to showcase the amazing things happening in the industry and create a closer connection between consumers, our food, and the people who produce it.

"Our farmers and producers work hard to improve food self-sufficiency in Newfoundland and Labrador, and produce more of the food we eat right here at home," said the Honourable Derrick Bragg, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture. "I always enjoy visiting farms all over the province to see this great work first hand, and Canada's Agriculture Day is a wonderful opportunity to thank the farmers we rely on and let them know how much we appreciate their efforts."

As part of the celebrations, Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador (AITC-NL) is hosting a virtual event with St. Mary's Elementary in St. John's, including an interactive presentation and hands-on activity all students can complete through Google Classroom. Students will also receive a tasty lunch made with local ingredients.

AITC-NL is also sharing a virtual performance from JUNO Award winning children's music group The Swinging Belles from St. John's. The band, who perform in a swing jazz style, consists of vocalists Laura Winter and Erin Power, and guitarist Duane Andrews. Teachers throughout the province can sign up here; <https://forms.gle/C6xSqdqbxDVQTFPS8> to watch the performance in the classroom with their students.

AITC-NL and NL Young Farmers Forum are also offering high school students an opportunity to join a virtual panel <https://forms.gle/p1FihLoj34mADxDq8> of four young farmers, who will share stories and experiences of their careers in agriculture. This experience will connect students to local young farmers with a passion for the agriculture industry to learn about the various careers available in the agriculture industry. The panel is on February 22 at 10:00 a.m. and will be recorded and available at [www.aitcnl.ca](http://www.aitcnl.ca) and AITC-NL's YouTube channel.

Kindergarten to Grade 12 students throughout the province will have the opportunity to participate in a Twitter contest to show how their class is celebrating Canada's Agriculture Day and share how they celebrate the food we grow here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Be sure to add the hashtag **#CdnAgDay** and tag **@AITCNL**.



Participating partnering organizations in Canada's Agriculture Day include:

- Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador
- Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture
- Agriculture in the Classroom Canada
- Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
- Chicken Farmer's of Newfoundland and Labrador
- School Milk Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador
- NL Young Farmers Forum
- Agropur

"Canada's Agriculture Day is an opportunity to help raise awareness and educate young Canadians about the exciting careers in the Agriculture Industry. Connecting students with the people who produce their food through interactive experiences in the classroom gives youth a sense of excitement and pride for our Canadian grown products. Thank you to all the teachers throughout Newfoundland and Labrador for their efforts to promote our vibrant agricultural sector and share the experiences of local farmers."

*-The Honourable Mare-Claude Bibeau, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food*

Canadian agriculture is an innovative, vibrant and forward-thinking industry that plays a significant role in our economy.

- Over 2.3 million Canadians are employed in the agriculture industry
- Agriculture contributes over \$112 billion to Canada's economy each year
- Canada's agricultural sector is using less energy per dollar of economic output

As Canadians, we can be proud that farmers produce some of the safest, high-quality food for our country and the world.

This project is funded in part by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3-billion commitment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports Canada's agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes a \$2 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership provided \$305,000 to support Agriculture in the Classroom activities in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2021-2022.

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