



## Media Release

February 17, 2023

Newfoundland and Labrador's agriculture industry is celebrating the annual Canada's Agriculture Day today, February 17, 2023.

[Canada's Agriculture Day](#) is a virtual celebration of the business of Canadian agriculture and a time to showcase all the amazing things happening in the industry to create a closer connection between consumers, our food, and the people who produce it.

"Farmers and farm families in Newfoundland and Labrador work tirelessly to support local communities. Today, on Canada's Agriculture Day, we raise a fork to recognize their important contributions," said the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "Thanks to Agriculture in the Classroom, youth are continuing to be informed and inspired about the food they eat, and the local farms that produce it, while learning about the many possible careers in our sector."

"Our farmers and producers go above and beyond every day to put fresh, local food on our tables and improve food self-sufficiency here in Newfoundland and Labrador," said the Honourable Derrick Bragg, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture. "I've visited farms all over the province and had many opportunities to see their hard work first-hand. On Canada's Agriculture Day, let's thank our dedicated farmers for everything they do and let them know how much we appreciate them."

As part of the celebrations, Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador (AIRC-NL) will host a mini agriculture exhibit at Cowan Heights Elementary in St. John's. Volunteers from various commodity groups and agriculture professionals will share their knowledge and offer students an interactive and hands-on learning experience, with exciting giveaways provided by Farm Credit Canada.

Agriculture in the Classroom NL will also share a virtual performance from the JUNO Award winning Swinging Belles, a children's music group from St. John's. The band, consisting of vocalists Laura Winter and Erin Power, and guitarist Duane Andrews, performs in a swing jazz style. Teachers can sign up to receive a link for this performance to watch in the classroom with their students.

All Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers throughout the province will have the opportunity to participate in a Twitter contest showing us how their classes celebrate Canada's Agriculture Day by adding the



hashtag **#CdnAgDay** and tagging **@AITCNL** in their social media posts. We encourage all teachers to show us how they celebrate the food we grow here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Participating partnering organizations include:

1. Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador
2. Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture
3. Agriculture in the Classroom Canada
4. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
5. Farm Credit Canada
6. Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
7. School Milk Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador
8. NL Young Farmers Forum
9. Agropur

This project is funded in part by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a \$3-billion, five-year (2018-2023) investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to innovate, strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture and agri-foods sector. This includes a \$2-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% 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 2022-2023.

Canadian agriculture is an innovative, vibrant and forward-thinking industry that plays a significant role in our economy. More than 2.3 million Canadians work in the agriculture industry, which contributes over \$112 billion to Canada's economy each year. Canada's agricultural sector uses 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.

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