

## ConAgra invests \$40 million in high-tech wheat terminals

**C**onAgra Grain Canada, a subsidiary of U.S.-based ConAgra Inc., is spending \$40 million to build four new high-volume, high-technology grain terminals on the Canadian prairies — three in Saskatchewan at Corinne, Nokomis and Yorkton, and one in the Brandon-Souris area of Manitoba.

The super terminals will have advanced and still relatively rare features such as computerized, high-speed unloading and weighing facilities, and one of the fastest grain-cleaning capacities on the prairies.

With these facilities, the terminal can unload a 100-box car train in 10 hours. In addition to wheat storage and handling facilities, the terminals will have built-in retail outlets at which farmers can buy ConAgra and other seed, fertilizer and crop protection products.

Mayo Schmidt, President of ConAgra Grain says, "ConAgra is involved in food processing on a worldwide scale. We want a source of high quality grains and oilseeds to meet our needs and Canada gives us that."

ConAgra Inc. is a large diversified food company which operates in 32 countries and has over 80,000 people on its world payroll. ♦

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## British Columbia

### draws big-name, big-budget U.S. productions

**F**ilm production in British Columbia is on a roll. In 1997, the province's movie and television industry posted a record \$630.59 million in production spending, a 14 percent increase over 1996. In fact, says Peter Mitchell, Director of the B.C. Film Commission, 1997 was one of the province's best years ever with a total of 167 productions — compared with 102 in the previous year. The bulk of this investment — \$424.53 million was by foreign, mostly U.S. producers. The creative package included feature films, TV series, made-for-TV movies and pilots, and TV commercials. Eight foreign features accounted for \$10.91 million of the total investment.

B.C. projects in 1997 included *Eaters of the Dead*, the largest feature film ever made in Canada, *Seven Years in Tibet*, *Kundun* and several highly-rated TV series. Titles in 1996 included *Free Willy III*, *Sweet Hereafter*, and *Warriors of Virtue*. Among big-name TV pilots, specials and mini-series produced in B.C. were *The X-Files*, *In Cold Blood*, and *Millenium*.

#### Incentives for film-makers

British Columbia's government recently announced a refundable tax credit program that will cover 75 percent of production and post-production costs incurred in the province. ♦

**INFORMATION**

For more information about eligibility criteria and about film-making opportunities and prospects in B.C., contact:

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