



news release

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For release

CANADA TO HOLD IWC 100TH ANNIVERSARY SESSION

Canadian Wheat Board Minister Hazen Argue announced today Canada will host the 100th session of the International Wheat Council. The event will be held in Ottawa June 25 to 27 under the joint sponsorship of Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, and his colleagues, Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan, International Trade Minister Gerald Regan, and Senator Argue.

The Minister also announced that a special day and a half anniversary symposium to be called the Centennial Forum will follow the IWC's regular business meeting. The Council session, attended by official delegations of member and observer countries, will be held in the Canadian Conference Centre. The Centennial Forum which is being held June 28 and 29 at the Capital Congress Centre, will be attended by delegations and observers to the Council session as well as representatives from producer, trade and international organizations.

"The Canadian government is honoured to host this important event and to organize a forum to consider the future for the grain industry world-wide". Senator Argue said.

"Our hosting of this event reflects the long history of Canadian support for the International Wheat Council and its efforts to develop workable agreements to benefit both exporters and importers of wheat."

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Senator Argue noted that the Council has played an important role in facilitating trade in wheat and encouraging international co-operation in grain matters.

Mr. Whelan commended the IWC for providing an international forum for the discussion of grain matters including world food problems and the Council's role in helping to meet the food needs of developing nations.

"As president of the World Food Council, it reassures me in my task that so many of the goals of the IWC complement the objectives of the WFC. The food aid committee of the IWC assesses the food situation in developing countries and the manner in which members are fulfilling their obligations under the Food Aid Convention."

The first International Wheat Agreement was negotiated in 1933. An original governing body, called the Wheat Advisory Committee, was replaced by the IWC in 1942. The Council meets twice a year, generally at its headquarters in London, England.

Delegates from the 60 IWC member nations and representatives from many non-member countries will be attending the 100th session. In addition, invited representatives from grain producer groups, and international trade organizations are expected to attend the Centennial Forum.

Mr. Regan said it is appropriate that Canada, as a major grain exporter, should host this anniversary session and forum.

"As an exporting nation, we are very aware of the vital role of international trade and for Canada the trade in grains is particularly important".

The Ministers noted that it is through international meetings of this type that nations can improve international co-operation in grain matters and as a consequence the well being of millions of grain farmers and consumers in all parts of the world.

- 30 -

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