

## **Agriculture in the Classroom Announces Champion Investors for 2007**

**SASKATOON, SK – January 10, 2007** – Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan (AITC-SK) today announced that Monsanto Canada increased its level of support to the organization in 2007, joining Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission and Agricore United as a AITC-SK Champion Investors. Together with Partner Investor, Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan, these organizations provide the necessary funds for AITC-SK to carry out its mandate.

The mandate of AITC-SK is to provide accurate, balanced and current information on agriculture to teachers and students. By engaging in partnerships with educators, agribusiness and agriculture organizations that care about investing in the future of Saskatchewan, AITC-SK is able to expose students to the realities of agriculture and modern food production.

“Agriculture today is an incredibly complex business and most people have little understanding of how their food is produced or what farming and agriculture is all about,” said Trish Jordan, public affairs director with Monsanto Canada. “Through Ag in the Classroom programs, kids have the opportunity to learn about both science and practical aspects of agriculture in a fun and experiential way. We have been impressed with the Ag in the Classroom program and wanted our support to more adequately reflect our commitment to agricultural education and awareness.”

In schools across the province, students learn about soil, plants, water, sustainability, bio-resources, environment, renewable resources, farming operations, communities, nutrition, and food safety. The challenge facing teachers is how to make these topics relevant to the world we live in. Agriculture encompasses all these important issues and is an excellent avenue to connect the subjects in the Saskatchewan Curricula to real-life situations.

### **Opportunity to witness AITC-SK in action**

To witness AITC-SK in action, media and other interested observers are welcome to check out the school tour program, “**Grain Production Today**” at the **Saskatoon Prairieland Park on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm**

Hosted by the Saskatoon Prairieland Park Corporation, the "Grain Production Today" program features four, 15-minute presentations on the following topics: Grain is more than bread, Crop Protection and Food Supply, The Growing Arena, and The Farming Cycle. Students then take part in a 25-minute Farm Game Show to test their knowledge. Over 400 Grade 6 students from Saskatoon and the surrounding area attend the tour.

Agriculture in the Classroom is a charitable organization based in Saskatoon. Since 1994, its mission has been *“to assist Saskatchewan learners in the K-12 education system to increase their awareness and understanding of the complexities and importance of agriculture through partnerships with educators, agribusiness, and agriculture organizations”*. AITC–SK has led the movement to further agricultural education in the province through its successful Agriculture Roadshow for Teachers, participation in the Agri-Ed Showcase and Career Expo held during Agribition, and resource development and distribution.

**For More Information Contact:**

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