

**For Immediate Release**

### ***Annual Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month Returns***

**Saskatchewan, March 4, 2019** – Agriculture in the Classroom – Saskatchewan (AITC-SK) will participate in the eighth annual Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM). AITC-SK joins Agriculture in the Classroom – Canada (AITC-C) and eight other provincial Agriculture in the Classroom organizations in bringing CALM to schools across Canada for the month of March.

CALM is a hands-on program that encourages children to learn about and celebrate Canada's agriculture and food story by connecting them with farmers and agriculture industry folks who share their personal agriculture story with the students. Building an awareness for students about the connection they have to local farmers and the agriculture and food sector is what makes CALM so impactful.

"Our Food. Our Story" is the 2019 theme and will see AITC organizations deliver programming to over 40,000 students with the involvement of over 700 volunteers spending time in Canadian classrooms.

This year, AITC-SK is organizing 360 classroom visits with 225 volunteers from the agriculture and food industry reaching over 9000 students in our province. During the visit, volunteers share their personal agriculture stories and lead students through a brand-new presentation and activity about food waste.

"Working Together to Reduce Food Waste" helps students explore problems and solutions to food loss and food waste. Students will discover different practices, technologies and innovations that are being used by the agriculture industry to reduce food loss. And a follow-up lesson plan allows the teacher to further explore food waste and achievable ways the students can reduce their own food waste.

"Every year CALM grows in our province as more teachers and volunteers see the value of someone directly involved in food production sharing their story with students" says Sara Shymko, Executive Director of AITC-SK. "Our new resource is very timely as more attention is being drawn to the vast amount of food waste. We hope this resource will give students tools and inspiration to reduce their personal food waste. At the same time, we want students to be more aware of the different technologies and practices the agriculture industry is using to minimize food loss."



CALM provides the important setting to help young Canadians understand the importance and value of agriculture in their lives and their communities. This year, CALM will build on its past success of engaging and connecting producers and other sector members with teachers and students across the country, which is imperative for the future of Canadian agriculture and food production.

CALM would not be possible without the generous funding from Cargill.

“Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month helps raise awareness about where the food we eat comes from and how it is grown in a fun and engaging way for kids”, stated Cargill’s Connie Tamoto, Manager, Corporate Responsibility. “Cargill is proud to support this initiative and our employees love the opportunity to engage locally with the kids to tell that farm to table story.”

Agriculture in the Classroom-Saskatchewan is a non-profit organization working to enhance the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture. AITC-SK partners with the agriculture and education communities to connect kids and agriculture through innovative, curriculum-based programs and educational resources. Last year AITC-SK reached 73,800 students in 246 communities across the province. Learn more at [www.aitc.sk.ca](http://www.aitc.sk.ca) or on Twitter or Facebook @aitcsk.

Follow Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month #CALM19 #OurFoodOurStory.

**For more information, contact:**

Agriculture in the Classroom-Saskatchewan  
Sara Shymko – Executive Director  
o. 306.933.5224  
c. 306.291.7574  
e. sara@aitc.sk.ca

Agriculture in the Classroom-Saskatchewan  
Chandra Gusikoski – Communications Coordinator  
o. 306.260.3560  
e. chandra@aitc.sk.ca

