



**Honourable George Groeneveld
Minister
Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
At Alberta 4-H Leaders' Conference**

**Saturday, January 10, 2009
7:30 p.m.**

**Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta.**

Check against delivery

- Good evening, everyone.
- Welcome to the 4-H Council members, foundation directors and our out-of province guests.
- I am pleased to bring you greetings from Premier Ed Stelmach and my colleagues at the legislature.
- Welcome and a special thank you to legacy builders:
 - ATB Financial,
 - AltaLink
 - The United Farmers of Alberta
 - EnCana, and
 - Canada Safeway
- Thanks for your generous support of 4-H.
- The 4-H program is one of the most respected and admired youth programs in Canada.
- It's a reputation that is well deserved.

- Since 1917, Alberta 4-H has been building communities ... by developing leadership, interpersonal and technical skills in its members and volunteers...
- Giving youth the skills they need to succeed in life ... and a network of friends across the entire country.
- Alberta 4-H can proudly boast that it is the number one youth organization in our province ... with 250,000 alumni.
- Agriculture is vital to our province, and 4-H plays an important role in developing tomorrow's leaders in the agriculture industry and rural communities.
- Our government is proud to support this program for our province's youth.
- 4-H is a member-run program ...but it depends on family support and volunteer leadership from adults in the community...

- ...People who tirelessly volunteer their energy and talents, even in challenging times, to work with our youth.
- Your organization brings the whole family together ... and shows by example that giving back to your community is a rewarding experience ... and a lot of fun, too.
- Our youth want to be involved, accepted, valued and heard. In 4-H, they run the show. That's what makes it so successful.
- So congratulations to all of you for the work you have done and continue to do ...
- ...by encouraging young people to make decisions, plan events, and participate in community activities.
- There are many people in this organization who inspire our youth to achieve and become leaders ... and community builders.

- And those exceptional leaders deserve special recognition.
- The highest tribute Alberta 4-H can pay to its leaders ... being inducted into the Hall of Fame ... is reserved for these outstanding individuals.
- Since the Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame started in 1971 ... 70 Alberta men and women have been recognized for their strong personal qualities and significant contributions to 4-H, agriculture and rural life.
- And tonight we honour an exceptional 4-H leader.
- **Sharon Uhrich** ...(YOU RICH)...has dedicated more than 25 years of service to Alberta 4-H ...at the club district and regional levels...
- ...Including working directly with 4-H members on various activities.
- Sharon's history with 4-H began with 17 years of leadership with the Golden Rod 4-H Multi-Club.

- She served on the Rockyview 4-H District Council, holding a number of executive positions since 1985...
- ...And is currently serving as a 4-H Key Leader for the district.
- Sharon has also been on the Calgary Regional 4-H Council for 21 years ... the past 11 years as Treasurer for the region.
- Her initiative and high-quality leadership has had a tremendously positive impact on Alberta 4-H.
- It's the type of leadership that inspires our youth, and fosters a new generation of leaders.
- Sharon, it's a great pleasure to celebrate your dedication to Alberta's youth ...
- Please come forward and accept this year's official Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame induction award ... you so richly deserve.

- Congratulations.
- (Present award, photo opp, lead applause)