

*July 14, 2011*

## **Alberta's investment puts Stampede Park renovation on the homestretch**

*Edmonton...* To commemorate the Stampede's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Government of Alberta has committed \$25 million towards construction of the Agrium Western Event Centre, to be completed in 2014, and renovation of the existing agriculture facilities.

"The Calgary Stampede is one of Canada's most popular and recognized events, attracting millions of visitors from around the world. It offers a unique taste of Alberta's western heritage and values that represent our past, present and future," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Calgary Stampede is an historic milestone and this funding will set the stage for another 100 years of Stampede success."

The Agrium Western Event Centre will complement the existing facility and triple capacity and programming at the site. It will offer a competition arena with seating for more than 2,400; as well as meeting, event and exhibition space and premium VIP hosting areas that are in high demand.

"The Agrium Western Event Centre will be a lasting legacy of the Stampede's centennial," said Jack Hayden, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. "This is an investment that will support business and agricultural events in Calgary for years to come."

The total cost of this project is \$60 million. The Calgary Stampede has received \$25 million from the Government of Canada through the Building Canada Plan and will fund the remaining \$10 million through corporate and philanthropic partnerships.

"For 100 years, this location has served to connect rural and urban communities," said Mike Casey, President and Chairman of the Board, Calgary Stampede. "With the generous support of the provincial and federal governments, this project ensures agriculture remains at the heart of Calgary and Southern Alberta for the next 100 years."

The Alberta government is working to build a better Alberta by fostering economic growth, strengthening our health and education systems, investing in infrastructure, supporting safe and strong communities and ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

- 30 -

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