



News Release

For immediate release

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INVESTS TO IMPROVE PERENNIAL GRASS PRODUCTION

SIMCOE, ONTARIO, MAY 29, 2010 – The Government of Canada is investing to provide producers in the Sand Plains region with a better, more economical way to grow perennial grass for biomass energy production. The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, today announced the investment of \$240,000 for the University of Guelph.

“Our Government is committed to helping producers find new uses and opportunities for their land,” said Minister Finley. “This research initiative is a great example of how we’re working together with producers in the Sand Plains region to build sustainable new crop options and boost the local economy and jobs.”

The University of Guelph will evaluate four perennial grass species over a two year period at the Simcoe Research Station to determine the best practices for growing perennial grass used for biomass energy production. This will provide producers in the Sand Plains region with an alternative crop option and lower production costs. Generating power using biomass will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and biomass heat. An annual field day with the public will take place to share the project results as well as tours and presentations for stakeholders, key research users and growers.

Funding is being provided through the Sand Plains Community Development Fund administered by the Ontario Association of Community Futures Development Corporations. The fund targets community-based initiatives that support regional development, attract and retain people and investment, and stimulate business development and job creation.

For more information on the Sand Plains Community Development Fund, please visit www.ontcfdc.com or www.sandplains.ca.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Media Relations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
613-773-7972
1-866-345-7972

Diana Jedig

Executive Director
Ontario Association of Community Futures
Development Corporations
866-668-2332