

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

On behalf of the Government of Canada, welcome to delegates from Canada and around the world to the 2018 International Conference and 69th International Executive Council Meeting of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage. Congratulations to the Canadian Water Resources Association and the Canadian Committee for Irrigation and Drainage for organizing this world-class event. Canada is certainly proud to host this prestigious conference, and to welcome the world to Saskatoon.

This year's theme of climate change is certainly timely: sustainable water management is vital to the future of our food supply and our planet.

Home to 20 per cent of the world's surface fresh water supply, Canada is blessed with rich water resources. At the same time, we know that we live in a world where the supply of fresh water is limited. Here in Saskatchewan, you will see some of the innovative ways our farmers are managing limited water supplies in dry Prairie conditions and a changing climate.

Water conservation is a high priority for the Government of Canada. We're investing in science and technology as powerful tools to help farmers reduce their water footprint, while increasing yields – for example, irrigation and drainage research, drought-tolerant crops, and environmentally sustainable technologies like conservation tillage. I'm pleased that you will hear from some of our leading scientists in the field during your conference.

I urge you all to learn from each other during your time together. I have no doubt that the connections you make and the ideas you exchange will yield new solutions for climate-smart agriculture that will help the world's farmers meet the challenge of feeding a growing population sustainably.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish you a wonderful conference and memorable visit to Saskatchewan.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence MacAulay".

Lawrence MacAulay,
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

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