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'Olympics of the canola industry' 14th International Rapeseed Congress in Saskatoon July 5-9, 2015

Saskatoon, SK: Every four years the stars of the canola / rapeseed industry come together from around the world to discuss new research, challenges and opportunities. More than 850 participants from 30 countries are converging on TCU Place in Saskatoon for the 14th International Rapeseed Congress (IRC 2015). The event is co-hosted by Ag-West Bio and the Canola Council of Canada.

Keith Downey will deliver the opening keynote. Downey is known as one of the "Fathers of Canola," for his role in developing the first canola varieties while he was a plant breeder at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Among his many awards, he is an Officer of the Order of Canada and has been inducted into both the Saskatchewan and Canadian Agricultural Halls of Fame.

Five Congress keynote speakers and 30 thematic keynote speakers will deliver a clear overview of the industry, from agronomics, to production, regulatory and marketing, and end use of these valuable crops. There will also be 175 scientific presentations and more than 350 research posters on display.

Opportunities and challenges will be discussed by the world's most renowned canola and rapeseed experts. Hot topics like precision agriculture, 'big data,' and omega-3 in canola, to herbicide resistant weeds, neonicotinoids and genetic modification, will be explored.

Wilf Keller, President and CEO of Ag-West Bio and President of the International Consultative Group for Research on Rapeseed, a European-based organization which oversees the Congress, says he is thrilled that Saskatoon is hosting this important event.

"IRC is the most important canola and rapeseed event in the world, bringing together the top scientists to discuss cutting edge research – and it's happening here in Saskatoon. That's pretty exciting!"

Keller is co-chair of the 14th International Rapeseed Congress along with Patti Miller, President of the Canola Council of Canada. "Canola is one of Canada's most valuable crops, generating \$19.3 billion for the country's economy," says Miller. "The IRC is a unique and important opportunity for industry leaders to meet, network and share innovative ideas that can help advance the industry."

Please visit the [IRC 2015 website](#) for details.

Information attached: Canola and rapeseed: What's the difference?

About The International Rapeseed Congress, Ag-West Bio, Canola Council of Canada and GCIRC

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Canola and rapeseed: What's the difference?

Anyone who has travelled through the Canadian Prairie Provinces in the summer is familiar with the bright yellow flowers that carpet the countryside. Developed from rapeseed by a team of Canadian scientists in the 1970s, canola has become the country's most valuable crop, and canola oil is one of the healthiest edible oils available today. Canola oil contains just 7% saturated fat compared to 15% for olive oil, 19% from peanut oil and 12% for sunflower oil.

Edible canola varieties are grown in Canada and around the globe (in other parts of the world it is still referred to as rapeseed). Industrial rapeseed has around 45 percent erucic acid, while canola contains less than two percent. It is also grown around the world, for a variety of non-food uses, from fuels and industrial oils to biodegradable plastics. In Canada, industrial rapeseed is grown under contract.

Visit the *Canola Council of Canada* [website](#) for more information about canola and rapeseed.

The International Rapeseed Congress

The International Rapeseed Congress (IRC) is the most comprehensive canola/rapeseed scientific event in the world. With oversight by the International Consultative Group for Research on Rapeseed - known as GCIRC (Groupe Consultatif International de Recherche sur le Colza) IRC is held once every four years in a different city around the globe. The 2011 event was held in Prague, The Czech Republic.

Ag-West Bio

Ag-West Bio is Saskatchewan's bioscience industry association, working as a catalyst for partnerships and industry growth by aiding strategic alliances, providing seed capital, regulatory support and industry information. Membership includes corporations, associations and individuals representing natural health products and functional foods, bioproducts and bioprocesses, and agricultural bioscience sectors. Ag-West Bio is funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's Growing Forward II program, with support from Western Economic Diversification Canada and the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program. www.agwest.sk.ca

Canola Council of Canada

The Canola Council of Canada (CCC) is a full value chain organization representing canola growers, processors, life science companies and exporters. Together, we are building on the strengths of canola, Canada's greatest agricultural success story. Our mission is to advance the growth and profitability of the canola industry based on innovation, sustainability, resilience and the creation of superior value for a healthier world. Keep it Coming 2025 is the strategic plan to ensure the canola industry's continued growth, demand, stability and success – achieving 52 bushels per acre to meet global market demand of 26 million metric tonnes by the year 2025. www.canolacouncil.org

GCIRC

The Groupe Consultatif International de Recherche sur le Colza (International Consultative Group of Research on Rapeseed - so called GCIRC) is an international association of people interested in technical advance made in the production and processing of this product (rapeseed, canola, mustard).

Its aims: develop scientific and technical research as well as studies and experiments concerning the improvement of these crops and their processed products from the agronomic, technological and food points of view, and ensure close links between researchers, in particular with International Rapeseed Congresses every four years.