



September 14, 2012
For immediate release

Saskatchewan celebrates National Biotechnology Week, September 14-21, 2012

Saskatoon, SK: Saskatchewan is celebrating bioscience success by participating in National Biotechnology Week from September 14-21. Biotech Week is being proclaimed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, the City of Saskatoon and the City of Regina.

Ag-West Bio coordinates National Biotech Week in Saskatchewan, heading a committee drawn from Saskatoon's bioscience community to hosting business luncheons, networking and outreach events. This year, Biotech Week is being held in conjunction with Innovation Week.

Ag-biotech is often the centre of controversy and **Doug Jones, Executive Director of Growers for Biotechnology**, addresses this head-on in his presentation, **FOOD FIGHT!** – exploring topics such as food vs. fuel, organic vs. conventional vs. GM growers, regulatory hurdles and the acceptance of biotechnology around the world.

(Presentation followed by lunch. Friday, Sept. 14, 10:45am to 1:00 pm at the National Research Council, Saskatoon)

The Saskatchewan Science Centre in Regina is hosting a **DNA Weekend**, with family-friendly, hands-on workshops starting at 2:00pm Saturday and Sunday. Learn how to extract DNA from a banana, make DNA key chains, and more.

www.sasksciencecentre.com (Sept. 15-16)

The Amazing Biotech Race is an education outreach event. Mixed teams of high school, SIAST and U of S students face lab challenges, riddles and skill-testing questions as they wind their way from company to company at Innovation Place in Saskatoon.

(Innovation Place, Thursday, Sept. 20, 1:00pm)

Biotech & Beer at Boffins

Raise a toast to the science of biotechnology! Speakers: Reno Pontarollo (CSO, Genome Prairie) Brent Zettl (CEO, president, Prairie Plant Systems); Dominique Singh (Masters Student, U of S) We are honoured that Saskatoon's **Mayor, Don Atchison**, will be joining us to offer a few words of wisdom at this event! *(Innovation Place, Saskatoon, Thursday, Sept. 20, 4:00 to 7:00 pm)*

National Biotech Week is an opportunity to showcase Saskatchewan's capabilities and raise awareness locally. Wilf Keller, president and CEO of Ag-West Bio, says "We are pleased to work with the Saskatchewan Biosciences community to coordinate the Saskatchewan events. It's an example of the power of collaboration – both within our province and across the country. With events happening across Canada, we have a greater impact and more people can become aware of the importance of biotechnology in our lives."

Please see the **attached sheet** for briefs about more Saskatchewan events, or visit:

http://www.agwest.sk.ca/national_biotech_week_in_saskatchewan_2012.html for full details and for registration information.

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More Saskatchewan Biotech Week events:

People. Investors. Results.

This seminar brings together industry leaders and internationally educated professionals with presentations by networking guru Michael Hughes (Networking for Results), Dale Daniels (Deloitte) and Brent Pederson (Hay Group).

(Innovation Place, Saskatoon, Monday, Sept. 17, 11:00 am to 1:30 pm)

Funding Programs Workshop

Features the Sustainable Development Technology Canada Statement of Interest Workshop as well as guest speakers from the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program, Western Economic Diversification and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

(TCU Place, Saskatoon, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 8:00 am to 11:30 am)

Using Legal Tools to Promote Innovation

Navigating technology development; securing protection of proprietary technology; extracting value from technology:

Kristal M. Allen (MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman LLP) will discuss these three key areas faced by technology-driven enterprises.

(Innovation Place, Saskatoon, Friday, Sept. 21, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm)

Food production and healthy foods: Can we close the gap?

Les Copeland (Professor of Agriculture at the University of Sydney, Australia) will discuss the links between agriculture and health and how the goal of producing sufficient healthy food to feed the world may be achieved.

(Innovation Place, Saskatoon, Friday, Sept. 21, 3:00 to 5:00 pm)

For more information, please visit: <http://agwest.sk.ca/events/NBW2012/NBW2012-Events.html>