



THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

New research centre at The School of Public Policy named after Alberta rancher John Simpson - agri-food and agri-business is western Canada's next big thing – global markets hungry

For Immediate Release

February 7th, 2019

Calgary – The School of Public Policy is very pleased to announce the creation of the Simpson Centre for Agricultural and Food Innovation and Public Education. The new Centre will advance research around public policies that strengthen and support the growth and sustainability of agri-food and agri-business, particularly in western Canada.

The Simpson Centre is named after noted Calgary rancher and businessman John Simpson. Mr. Simpson, a born and raised Albertan, is the owner, Chairman and CEO of the CANA Group of Companies, a family-owned private construction services and development company.

“Agriculture is of major importance not just to farmers and ranchers, but to all Canadians. *We all* benefit from advances in agri-tech, accessible export markets and business-friendly policies that help spur economic growth,” said Dr. Ed McCauley, president and vice chancellor, University of Calgary.

The School is known for its independence, rigour and fact-based analysis. SPP will inform the public and stakeholder dialogue about agri-food and agri-business issues and support the Simpson Centre in research and public education on forward-looking and practical issues in the agricultural sector, while always maintaining The School's rigorous standards.

To that end, SPP will establish four research areas within the Simpson Centre that will focus on timely and relevant topics that impact decision making in an effort to strengthen the farming and agricultural sector in Canada and as it exports abroad. Those four fields include trade policy, environment and climate change, agriculture as a major resource sector and food and agriculture technology.

“Several years ago, The School launched an initiative to quantify the contribution of various resource sectors to the economy,” said Dr. PG Forest, director The School of Public Policy. “We intuitively knew that the contribution of resource sectors, such as agriculture and livestock, were being undervalued and underestimated. John Simpson understands that — and he understands the incredible future contribution of globally traded Western Canadian agricultural exports to our economy. We're grateful for his foresight.”

For more information on the Simpson Centre, visit <https://www.policyschool.ca/simpsoncentre/>

-30-

Media contact:

Morten Paulsen

morten.paulsen2@ucalgary.ca

403.220.2540