

News Release Communiqué

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Government of Canada Invests in Heritage Infrastructure at Seager Wheeler's Maple Grove Farm National Historic Site of Canada

Rosthern, Saskatchewan, May 18, 2010 – On behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Mr. Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, today announced that the Government of Canada will be investing in infrastructure improvements at Seager Wheeler National Historic Site. Home of world renowned agriculturalist, Seager Wheeler, this site provides an exciting opportunity for Canadians to explore an early 20th Century grain farm and learn about Wheeler's role in the development of sustainable agriculture on the Canadian prairies.

"The area is rich in history and has a vibrant heritage tourism industry because of sites like Seager Wheeler National Historic Site," said Maurice Vellacott. "The restoration work that will be undertaken on the house will help ensure that future generations of Canadians will be able to experience the site in its original splendor."

Through the National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program, the Government of Canada will be contributing up to \$22,000 to support a conservation project which includes repairing and repainting the wood siding, repairing wood frame windows, roof shingles, exterior doors and the front veranda of the original 1908 farm house at Seager Wheeler National Historic Site.

"Our Government plays a leadership role in the protection of Canada's heritage buildings and national historic sites, such as Seager Wheeler National Historic Site," said Minister Prentice. "We recognize just how important history, heritage and tourism are to the economy, and the important role that our Cost-Sharing Program will play in support to local economies, such as Rosthern, as well as to the fabric of national historic sites."

"The Seager Wheeler National Historic Site would like to thank the National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program for funding and supporting us in the restoration of the 1908 house - one of the last buildings that needed restoring on our site," said Janice Penner, Manager, Seager Wheeler National Historical Society. "With this contribution, we will be able to preserve this wonderful historic resource and continue to share the legacy of Seager Wheeler's life and work."

Parks Canada's Cost-Sharing Program, with a budget of \$20 million provided in part by Canada's Economic Action Plan, reflects the government's desire to support job creation by providing funding for conservation of national historic sites.

For additional information, please see the accompanying backgrounder at www.parkscanada.gc.ca under **Media Room**.

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