

## Government of Canada Announces \$3 Million Investment in 4-H Canada under AgriCompetitiveness Program

**Ottawa, Ontario – May 2, 2019** – 4-H Canada welcomed today's announcement by The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, of the Government of Canada's investment of up to \$3 million for the development and delivery of innovative 4-H programs and initiatives across Canada over the next three years.

Speaking to a group of 70 4-H youth on Parliament Hill as part of the 47<sup>th</sup> annual 4-H Canada Citizenship Congress, Minister Bibeau reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and 4-H Canada, which for decades has supported the development of Canada's youth leaders in predominantly rural and agricultural communities. This new funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriCompetitiveness Program will ensure 4-H Canada is able to continue to empower responsible, caring and contributing youth through world-class programs with measurable impact, and capacity building initiatives for its dedicated volunteers.

"4-H Canada welcomes the Government of Canada's continued investment in impactful positive youth development," said David Hovell, Chair, 4-H Canada. "This funding commitment will ensure 4-H members are empowered to develop relevant skills and knowledge while exploring career paths in the areas important to their generation: agriculture, food security, science, technology, environmental sustainability, healthy living, communications and community engagement."

Over the next three years, 4-H Canada will work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to ensure Canadian youth have opportunities to meaningfully engage in the agriculture and agri-food industry, as well as other related sectors, by providing training and mentorship opportunities to grow their practical knowledge and leadership skills through conferences, exchanges, internships and hands-on learning activities.

This funding will also allow 4-H Canada to support capacity building in 4-H volunteers to ensure safe, inclusive and fun environments for hands-on learning, to enhance its network of diverse mentors across the country, to develop new outreach tools, and to deliver grassroots programming with its provincial partner organizations. Collectively, 4-H Canada will grow its programming to reach new and diverse communities and develop leaders in communities, businesses and the agrifood sector across Canada.



## **About 4-H Canada**

For over 100 years, 4-H Canada has been one of the most highly respected positive youth development organizations in Canada. 4-H Canada has close to 25,000 members and more than 7,700 volunteer leaders. Our goal is to help young Canadians "Learn To Do By Doing" in a safe, inclusive and fun environment. We believe in nurturing responsible, caring and contributing youth leaders who are committed to positively impacting their communities across Canada and around the world. To learn more about 4-H Canada, please visit <u>4-h-canada.ca</u> and follow our <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u> pages.

## For more information, media may contact:

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