

SCHOLARSHIPS TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG MANITOBANS TO PURSUE RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAREERS:
WOWCHUK

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Province Presents \$250,000 Cheque to Brandon University For Rural Development
Scholarship Initiative

Three new scholarships for students enrolled in Brandon University's Rural and Community Studies Program will encourage more of the province's young people to pursue careers in rural Manitoba, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister Rosann Wowchuk said today.

"Young Manitobans hold the key to the future of agriculture and rural development in our province," said Wowchuk. "Our government is committed to continuing to support tomorrow's rural leaders to ensure a strong future for Manitoba's rural communities."

On behalf of the minister, Brandon East MLA Drew Caldwell today presented a \$250,000 cheque to Brandon University president Louis Visentin to establish a Manitoba Rural Initiatives Endowment Fund to support the new scholarships.

Eligible students will apply for three scholarships to be awarded annually:

- The Manitoba Rural Initiatives Undergraduate Scholarship in Rural and Community Studies, to be awarded to an undergraduate student from rural Manitoba enrolled in the university's Rural Community Studies Program. The value of the scholarship will be \$2,000.
- The Manitoba Rural Initiatives Graduate Assistantship in Rural Development, to be awarded to a graduate student from rural Manitoba enrolled in the university's Rural Development Graduate Program. The scholarship will allow a student to work part-time for one term for a designated faculty member. The value of the scholarship will be \$2,500.
- The Manitoba Rural Initiatives Scholarship in Rural Development (master's degree), to be awarded to two students enrolled in the university's Master of Rural Development Graduate Program and who are about to begin their thesis research focusing on rural Manitoba. The two awards are valued at \$4,000 each.

The grant pool for the scholarship is funded jointly by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and the Rural Economic Development Initiative.

The scholarships build on a \$300,000, three-year provincial funding agreement for the university's Rural Development Institute announced in 2004. The province's annual contribution supports activities designed to increase the knowledge and skills required to facilitate and advance rural development. In return, the institute continues to provide research and education services with broad benefits across rural Manitoba.

Today's cheque presentation follows the announcement of a new package of programs to enhance agriculture opportunities for young Manitobans in rural areas, Wowchuk noted.

New initiatives announced earlier this week include a new farm training program for young women in rural areas, a strengthened young farmer rebate program, new supports to make transferring a farm from one generation to the next easier, an expanded management training credit and other initiatives.

"Our government will continue to invest in the city of Brandon and rural Manitoba to ensure tomorrow's leaders have the tools and support they need to succeed," Caldwell said.

Strengthening opportunities for young Manitobans in rural areas is consistent with the province's Creating Opportunities Action Plan, a strategy to enhance economic development opportunities across rural and northern Manitoba.