



36th Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - Canada

September 7-9, 2011

MEDIA – GENERAL INFORMATION

Date and Venue

Canada will host the 36th Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting in Saskatoon (Saskatchewan) from **September 7 to 9, 2011**.

The venue for the meeting will be:

Delta Bessborough Hotel

601 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

S7K 3G8 Canada

Telephone: (306) 244-5521 Fax: (306) 665-9769

Website: <http://www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/saskatchewan/delta-bessborough/>

About the Cairns Group

The Cairns Group is a coalition of 19 agricultural exporting countries with a commitment to strengthening global agricultural trade with a focus on World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on agriculture.

Cairns Group countries members are: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay.

For information about the Cairns Group, please visit: www.cairnsgroup.org

Media Program

The plenary and working sessions are closed to media.

September 7, 2011: Opening ceremony session from 17:30 until 17:45
Speeches and photo opportunity/TV footage only.

September 8, 2011:

From 9:00 am until 16:00 innovation-related agricultural media tour (tentative)

17:00 Cairns Group family photo

September 9, 2011: Cairns Group news conference at 11:45 am (local time)

The event will also be available through telephone conference call. The phone number and pass code will be made available on September 8 to media that registered for the press conference.

Media Tour

As the Cairns Group works to chart the future of agricultural trade, researchers in Saskatoon and area are making groundbreaking strides in what agriculture might look like on the Canadian Prairies in the years ahead. Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan and Innovation Place, which neighbours the U of S campus, are using cutting edge technology to peer deep into the structure of matter and biotechnology to develop new varieties of plants aimed at securing the world's food supplies. This is a unique chance to experience the excitement of discovery firsthand. Each of the stops will have both story and photo opportunity elements. (*Note: the tour will only proceed if there is sufficient pre-registered media interest*)

9:15 to 10:30 - Canadian Light Source Synchrotron

This marvel of technology is a source of brilliant light used by scientists to view the microstructure of materials. The CLS synchrotron is being used in work in a number of agricultural and biotechnology projects including work in developing drought resistant crops, increasing crop productivity, recycling agricultural leftovers and work in renewable fuels and biomass.

10:30 – 11:30 - National Research Council of Canada's Plant Biotechnology Institute (PBI)

The PBI is the only National Research Council of Canada institute focused primarily on plant-based research. Surrounded by canola and wheat fields, the institute was first established in 1948 as the Prairie Regional Laboratory. Renamed The Plant Biotechnology Institute in 1983, PBI has a mandate for biotechnology and genomics research pertinent to crop improvement.

11:30 -12:30 Lunch (bag lunch provided highlighting local cuisine)

12:30-14:30 - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Saskatoon Research Centre

This is where some of the leading agricultural research in the country is taking place. The Centre conducts research on Prairie crops to support the agri-food industry in western Canada. In addition, it is a major location for research and development in agricultural biotechnology. The Centre is also home to the Plant Gene Resources of Canada and the Canadian Animal Genetic Resources Program, which have national mandates to protect and conserve Canada's national germplasm collections.

15:00 – 15:45 - Berry Barn Saskatoon Orchard

Located just south of the city and nestled on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, this 27-acre orchard is the perfect place to discover Western Canada's "superfruit." Saskatoons, for which the city was named, are not only one of the most delicious and unique flavours around but also one of the healthiest. In comparisons with blueberry, raspberry and strawberry - the saskatoon was found to be more antioxidant rich than all of them. And from a nutraceutical perspective, antioxidant rich fruits have anti-cancer and anti-aging effects on the human body.

Registration of Media

All media representatives must register in advance using the “Media Accreditation Form” to be returned by September 2, 2011 at: saskatoonmedia2011@agr.gc.ca

It is also recommended to register for the press conference to receive an advisory should the time change and to receive the phone number and pass code for the telephone conference.

For all questions regarding media program or arrangements, members of the press can contact Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Media Relations Services at: saskatoon2011media@agr.gc.ca or 1-613-773-7972.

Media Room

Registered media are asked to pick up their identification badge and media kit at the Media room, located in the Spadina room, mezzanine floor, at the Delta Bessborough Hotel, from September 7, 16:00, until September 9, 11:00 am.

Travel Arrangements and Accommodation

Transportation and accommodation are the responsibility of the individual media outlet. Media representatives are required to book and pay for their own hotel accommodation and transportation. The CG Secretariat does not have an allotment of rooms set aside for the media. For more information on accommodations, visit the official website of Tourism Saskatoon at www.tourismsaskatoon.com

About the Delta Bessborough Hotel

The Delta Bessborough Hotel is located 7 km from the Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport; it is approximately 15 minutes by car from the airport. The average taxi fare between the hotel and the airport is CA\$20.

Other Hotels

Hotel	Phone number	Web Page	Distance from Delta Hotel
Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel	(306) 652-6770	www.sheratoncavaliersaskatoon.com	56 m 1 min. walk
	1-800-325-3535 US/Canada Toll Free		
Radisson Hotel Saskatoon	(306) 665-3322	www.radisson.com/saskatoon-hotel	300 m 4 min. walk
	1-800-395-7046 US/Canada Toll Free		
Hilton Garden Inn Saskatoon	306-244-2311	www.hilton.com	700m 9 min. walk

Customs and Border Regulations

To find all Canadian border information and services for non-residents visiting or doing business with Canada, please visit the following website: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/noncan-eng.html>.

Air Service

The Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport is located 15 minutes from the city centre. Numerous daily arrivals and departures link Saskatoon with all Canadian, American and International points.

Useful Things to Know about Saskatoon (www.tourismsaskatoon.com)

- Saskatoon is the largest city in the province with a population of approximately 265,000.
- Located in central Saskatchewan, on the South Saskatchewan River.
- The name "Saskatoon" comes from the Cree word "misâskwatômina", which refers to the sweet, violet-coloured berry that grows in the area.
- Popularly described as the "Bridge City" for its seven river crossings.
- Saskatoon has more hours of sunshine annually than any other major Canadian city receiving an average of 2,381 hours each year.

The Saskatoon region is considered to have one of the most diversified economies in western Canada. While mining, energy and agriculture dominate the landscape, advanced research and development (R&D) facilities are helping create opportunities in new industries. The province's natural resources and commitment to innovation are creating growth in the manufacturing and life science sectors. Scientific research and development in Saskatoon is conducted principally at the University of Saskatchewan and Innovation Place Research Park, both of which house many of Canada's finest R&D facilities, such as Canada's only synchrotron and the globally recognized Vaccine Infectious Diseases Organization/InterVAC facility that is doing groundbreaking work in vaccine development for both human and animal health applications.

Saskatchewan is the heartland of Canadian agriculture with 65 million acres of farmland (41% of Canada's total) of which 50 million acres is under cultivation. It is Canada's most important cereal, oilseed and pulse-growing region, and has the country's second largest beef herd (after Alberta). In addition to its huge capacity for primary production, Saskatchewan is home to much of Canada's canola crushing, flour milling, malt & ethanol production and dryland agricultural equipment manufacturing.

In 2010, Saskatchewan exported \$7.7 billion worth of agriculture and food products (20% of Canada's total) to over 125 countries around the world. This makes it Canada's second largest exporting province after Ontario. Given its export strengths in other sectors like energy (oil & gas), mining (potash, uranium) and forestry, 70% of the province's gross domestic product is generated by exports.