



**OFC welcomes a major announcement from Minister MacAulay**

Research in organic agriculture continues and AAFC provides funding for ensuring the sustainability of the Canadian organic sector

August 24 2018

Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, has made a major announcement that will benefit the whole Canadian organic industry on August 24<sup>th</sup>, on Wild Flight Farm, in Mara (BC).

Supported by more than 70 industry partners, the Organic Federation of Canada receives a contribution of \$8,342, 222 from the government of Canada for funding 28 research activities of the [Organic Science Cluster 3](#) (OSC3) under the AgriScience Program of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Partnership, under the theme 'Connecting environmental sustainability with the science of organic agriculture'.



Louise and Hermann Bruns, Wild Flight Farm, Jim Robbins, OFC President, Margaret Graves, Program Manager (OACC), Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Nicole Boudreau, OFC Coordinator, Dr Andrew Hammermeister, Director (OACC), Garth Patterson, Executive Director, Western Grain Research Foundation, Gord Androssoff, Program Manager (WGRF)

The call for the letters of intent launched in 2017 has been fruitful: Canadian researchers are interested in pursuing the development of ecological agricultural practices so appreciated by the Canadian consumers. The OSC3 will rigorously address the environmental challenges associated with agriculture by developing new crops and varieties that provide good yields under organic management and by identifying practices and varieties that are resilient in increasingly turbulent

economic and ecological environments. The OSC3 will identify low-risk solutions to pest control and will explore options to improve livestock health and welfare. Moreover, AAFC allocates critical funds for the transfer of scientific knowledge to local and international stakeholders in an accessible language and format.

Globally, the OSC3 will validate and enhance the scientific capacity of the researchers who improve our organic production systems. More than 40 researchers are already active in 15 AAFC research stations and 14 Canadian research institutions.

The OFC maintains its cooperation with the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada

from Dalhousie University that will coordinate the scientific research and will actively participate in the general management of the OSC3. Finally, by raising the productivity of the organic operations and by improving its practices, the OSC3 will support the growth of the Canadian organic market, which has become the 5<sup>th</sup> largest market of the world.

All good news for the Canadian environment!

Minister MacAulay has also announced a contribution of \$292,555 for launching a study on the funding mechanisms that would ensure the sustainability of the organic associations across the country. This contribution also supports the review of the Canadian Organic Standards (COS) that has to be performed every five years to modernize and update the COS.

The OFC welcomes the Minister's announcement because the science of organic agriculture and the Canadian Organic Standards are closely interrelated: the Canadian organic industry will continue to grow when it is based on a modern standard and validated by science.



**Connecting Environmental Sustainability with  
the Science of Organic Production | 2018-2023**



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