

Backgrounder

In August 2004, the Government of Nunavut signed on to the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF), an agreement between the Government of Canada, the provinces and the territories to promote the development and enhancement of the agriculture and agri-food industry in Canada. In October 2004, Canada and Nunavut signed the *Canada-Nunavut Implementation Agreement*, which sets out federal and territorial program commitments under the APF and, in June 2005, the federal and territorial governments took the final step by signing a collateral Agricultural Policy Framework Initiative (APFI) agreement in order to formalize the details of how APF funding will be spent in Nunavut.

The APFI will enhance the opportunities of the agriculture and agri-food industry in Nunavut by providing assistance in four areas:

Food Safety and Quality: Designed to improve the sector's ability to identify and respond to food safety and quality issues, improve the industry's ability to meet or exceed market requirements, increase consumer confidence and create valued-added opportunities.

Environment: Designed to enhance environmental stewardship of water, soil, air and biodiversity resources, including the caribou and muskox herds, through broadening the general knowledge base as it applies to Nunavut production.

Renewal: Designed to provide harvesters with the skills, knowledge and tools to help them succeed in harvesting; access to advice on increasing profitability through new business opportunities and value-added activities; and opportunities to help them improve family incomes and/or make informed choices about sources of income.

Science and Innovation: Designed to provide scientific and technical support aimed at developing innovative approaches to the diversification of the agri-food industry.

The Agreement provides for yearly contributions to the agri-food industry of Nunavut totaling \$1.5 million over five years on a 60 per cent Federal and 40 per cent Nunavut basis. The agreement is effective until March 31, 2008.

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