

Media release

- **New directions for Canada's agriculture injury surveillance program**

Winnipeg, November 26, 2009: The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) has rebranded its agricultural injury surveillance program as the Canadian Agriculture Injury Reporting (CAIR) program. CASA's ongoing commitment to CAIR comes with a new name, a new logo and a new home.

CAIR's data management is moving to the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research (ACICR) from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Dr. Don Voaklander, ACICR, will take over from Dr. Rob Brison, Queen's University, who has directed the coordination, collection, and analysis of agricultural injury data for CAISP, the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program, for over 12 years.

"It is an honour to be named to continue the tradition of excellent surveillance work that Queen's University has conducted" says Dr. Voaklander.

CAISP was developed to address the lack of agricultural injury data in Canada. It has evolved into an integrated national surveillance project that serves to guide and inform a national agricultural health and safety agenda. The program owes its success to the work and dedication of a network of volunteer collaborators from each province and territory who provided the expertise to access and interpret these essential agricultural injury data.

In 2006, CASA brought together a team of safety and health professionals in agriculture, injury prevention, safety research and health surveillance to evaluate CAISP and make recommendations for the future. The evaluation's findings recognized the scientific validity and international recognition of CAISP as well as its many significant accomplishments.

Under CASA's direction and guidance, an Executive Steering Committee has been put in place to implement the team's recommendations assigning priority to data quality, research and knowledge translation.

CASA executive director Marcel Hacault says "CASA is committed to continuing this legacy, one that reflects the partnership of agricultural organizations and government ministries, researchers, public health and the injury prevention community".

Funding for CAIR is provided by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, which receives funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through *Growing Forward* – a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

For more information about CAIR or CASA go to www.casa-acsa.ca .

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