

IRC 2016 - 3rd Announcement - October 2015

The **hotels** are booked, pre and mid congress **tours** are arranged, the main invited **speakers** are confirmed and we are now **ready for you to register** for the congress and **submit a paper** - for oral or poster presentation - featuring your research, or management ideas on range/grassland/wild lands related to one of the many topic categories on the program.

We have put together an **ambitious program** to meet the aim of the IRC to promote the interchange of scientific and technical information on all aspects of rangelands and grass farming and management of wildlands including: research, planning, development, reclamation, management, extension, education and training.

If you are a rancher, grass farmer, extension agrologist, range manager, land reclamation specialist, parks or wild lands supervisor, researcher, modeler, remote sensing specialist or a person interested in the management of the world's grazing and wild lands you are invited to make an oral or poster presentation involving your work or operation. **Full Paper Submission Guidelines** are included in the enclosed materials. The **deadline** for receiving paper submissions has been **extended until February 29, 2016**.

Rangelands are important in Canada, and in particular to the agricultural economy of Saskatchewan, which has almost 5 million ha of native grass rangelands, about 2 million ha of introduced hay, and 1.6 million ha of perennial pasture crops out of a total of nearly 26 million ha of agricultural land. The livestock industries, which include beef, dairy, sheep, buffalo, and exotic or game livestock, depend on rangelands and perennial grasslands for the base of their feed resources.

Exciting, informative **pre-congress** and **mid-congress tours** will showcase western Canadian rangelands, livestock operations, cultural and heritage sites, and the spirit of the people. Our tour committee has developed a **seven day pre-congress tour** visiting the grazing and wild lands of southern and central Saskatchewan and Alberta including a special day spent in Banff in Canada's majestic Rocky Mountains. There are two other pre congress tours of **three** and **four** days which will concentrate on the southern mixed prairie of Saskatchewan and the parkland are in central Saskatchewan and Alberta. In addition, there are nine one day **mid congress tours** which will be included in your registration fee.

You are also invited to take part in one of the complimentary workshops to be held on Saturday and Sunday prior to the start of the congress.

The Congress will take place in **Saskatoon**, which is centrally located in the Canadian portion of the Northern Great Plains grasslands of North America. Saskatoon's **airport (yxe.ca)** has daily

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connections to Canadian airline hubs in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, and to Minneapolis, in the USA.

Saskatchewan, in the heart of the Canadian prairies is a great place for an international congress as well as an extended holiday with your family. You could stay on a holiday ranch, go fishing in northern Saskatchewan, watch prairie sunsets or spend time in Canada's Rocky mountains only a 7-hour drive from Saskatoon before or after the congress. The University of Saskatchewan (**Kids Camps**) and the Recreation Department of the City of Saskatoon (**Play Programs**) offer various summer activities for children during the time of the congress.

The Congress headquarters will be in the **Teacher's Credit Union Place** (TCUP), located in downtown Saskatoon within walking distance to congress designated hotels. The South Saskatchewan River flows through Saskatoon and provides a beautiful park with the **Meewasin Trails** and **River Landing** for recreation just a few blocks from downtown.

Please forward this Announcement on to colleagues who would be interested in attending IRC 2016.

Lastly, we would not be able to hold an event like this without the support of sponsors. Thank you to all of our sponsors. You will see their logos posted in the right margin of our website.

On behalf of the Congress Organizing Committee, we hope that you are planning to attend IRC 2016. We look forward to seeing you in Saskatoon in July 2016.

Bruce Coulman and Duane McCartney

Co-Chairs of the Congress Organizing Committee

General Registration Information

For questions and concerns pertaining to the Congress,
please email: info@irc2016canada.ca

For questions and concerns pertaining to the online registration system,
please email: events@agwest.sk.ca

Meeting Location

Teachers Credit Union Centre (TCU Place)
35-22nd Street East
Saskatoon, SK Canada
Directions

Registration Packages

Full Registration - \$675 + 5% GST - Early Bird (until May 30, 2016)

Includes admission to plenary sessions, oral and poster sessions, opening ceremonies, opening reception, one mid-congress day tour (July 20), evening at Wanuskewin Heritage Park; lunches from July 18-22; registration bag and badge. Pre-Congress Tours are not included – registrants must purchase these separately.

Student Registration - \$450 CAD + 5% GST

Includes admission to plenary sessions, oral and poster sessions, opening ceremonies, opening reception, one mid-congress day tour (July 20), evening at Wanuskewin Heritage Park; lunches from July 18-22; registration bag and badge. **Students must provide a written verification of student status from department head or other university official.** Pre-Congress Tours are not included – registrants must purchase these separately.

Accompanying Persons Registration - \$175 CAD + 5% GST

Available only with purchase of a Full registration. Includes admission to opening ceremonies, opening reception, one mid-congress day tour (July 20), evening at Wanuskewin Heritage Park; and informal coffee meeting with a presentation by Tourism Saskatoon. If attending any technical sessions or workshops, must purchase full registration. Pre-Congress Tours are not included – registrants must purchase these separately.

One Day Rate - \$200 CAD + 5% GST

Includes admission to plenary, oral and poster sessions for that day only; lunch for that day only. Pre-Congress Tours are not included – registrants must purchase these separately.

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Not Included with Registration Fees

For all of the packages, breakfast and dinner are not included with the exception of dinner on the evening of Wednesday, July 20. Additionally, delegates and accompanying persons wishing to attend the banquet on the final day (Friday, July 22) will need to purchase their banquet ticket (\$50 CAD + 5% GST) at time of registration. Pre-Congress Tours are not included - registrants interested in participating in a Pre-Congress Tour must purchase these separately.

Registration Fees

Registration Packages		\$ per person
Full Registration	Early Bird (until May 30, 2016)	\$675 CAD*
	Regular Rate (after May 30, 2016)	\$775 CAD
Student Registration		\$450 CAD
One Day Registration		\$200 CAD
Accompanying Persons		\$175 CAD
July 22 Banquet		\$50 CAD

*All registrations will be charged 5% GST (Goods & Services Tax) - GST #865238042.
Visitors to Canada are eligible for GST refunds, please see attached Refund Form.

Payment Options

AgWestBio Inc. is providing conference registration services for IRC 2016. Registration and event costs are priced in Canadian dollars. Accepted forms of payment are credit card, cheque and wire transfer. All cheques must be payable in Canadian funds.

An invoice can be issued upon request to events@agwest.sk.ca; Full payment is required at time of registration.

For credit card payments via secure fax, email or phone please call AgWestBio at 1-306-668-2663 and ask to speak with Boni Dorish

Payments by cheque should be made payable to:

Ag-West Bio Inc.,
101-111 Research Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R2
Canada

**For additional information on payment options please email:
events@agwest.sk.ca.**

Cancellation Policy

Written notice of cancellation received **on or before June 1, 2016** will be permitted. Refunds will be subject to a \$100 CAD administration fee (including GST). **No refunds will be issued after June 1, 2016.**

Congress Accommodation Options

Blocks of rooms have been secured at five hotels in downtown Saskatoon. All of these hotels are within walking distance to TCU Place. Additionally, a small number of rooms are available at the University of Saskatchewan residences.

For those interested in camping, the Gordon Howe Campground ([click here to go to website](#)) located right in Saskatoon has excellent camping spots. There are 135 serviced sites available for booking starting in April 2016.

	
<p>9-22nd Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3X6</p> <p>Location: Across the street from TCU Place; 2 minute walk</p> <p>Rates (\$ CAD/night): Double Queen \$199</p> <p>Reservations: Toll free 1-877-782-9444 Mention International Rangeland Congress</p> <p>Amenities: Complimentary internet All guestrooms have microwaves, fridges, coffee makers Pool and fitness centre</p>	<p>101 Pacific Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7K 1N8</p> <p>Location: Across the street from TCU Place; 1 minute walk</p> <p>Rates (\$ CAD/night): King with Sleeper Sofa: \$167 Two Queen: \$175 Two Queen with Sleeper Sofa: \$175</p> <p>Reservations: 1-306-986-5000 Mention , Group block code: IRC</p> <p>Amenities: Free parking, Complimentary internet All guestrooms with microwaves, fridges, coffee makers Pool and fitness centre</p>

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PARK TOWN HOTEL
SASKATOON

924 Spadina Crescent East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3H5

Location: Looking over South Saskatchewan River; 15 minute walk from TCU Place

Rates (\$ CAD/night):

Standard One Queen: \$149
Standard Two Queen: \$149
Standard Two Doubles: \$149
Executive King: \$165

Reservations: Toll free 1-800-667-3999
Booking numbers: #140725 (July 15-22);
#145689 (for July 9, 12, 13)

Amenities:

Complimentary internet
Complimentary airport shuttle
Pool and whirlpool



Sheraton®
Cavalier Saskatoon
HOTEL

612 Spadina Crescent East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3G9

Location: Facing South Saskatchewan River; 10 minute walk from TCU Place



Rates (\$ CAD/night):

Queen With or Without Pullouts : \$169
Double/Double: \$179
King: \$189
Club Level Room: \$209

Reservations: Toll free 1-888-627-8184; SET NUMBER 446328

Amenities:

Free parking
Complimentary internet
Pool, waterslide and fitness centre

	 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
<p>405-20th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7K 6X6</p> <p>Location: One block from South Saskatchewan River; 10-15 minute walk from TCU Place</p> <p>Rates (\$ CAD/night): Corner Queen: \$187 Two Queen: \$187 Junior Suite: \$187</p> <p>Reservations: Toll-free 1-800-333-3333 Mention International Rangeland Congress</p> <p>Amenities: Complimentary internet Pool, water slide and fitness centre Parking \$5.00 per day</p>	<p>128 Saskatchewan Hall 91 Campus Drive Saskatoon, Saskatchewan</p> <p>Location: On University of Saskatchewan Campus; 35-40 minute walk to TCU Place (bus pass available –travel to downtown bus mall; 5 minutes from Congress Centre)</p> <p>Rates (\$ CAD/night): Single (1 single bed) \$58.95/person Double (2 single beds) \$51.95/person Registration fee \$15</p> <p>Reservations: TBA</p> <p>Amenities: Hot breakfast is included Dormitory style rooms - Shared washroom Wi-Fi in common lounges only Bedding, towels, soap, glasses provided</p>

Pre-Congress Tours

There are three **Pre-Congress Tours** ranging in length from 3 to 7 days. A registration form for these tours is included with these materials. Details on each tour have been included with this information package.

Pre-Congress Workshops

A number of Congress Sponsors are holding complimentary workshops on the two days (July 16 & 17) prior to Congress start. You are free to attend a workshop with a paid Full or Student Registration. Workshop sign up is part of the **online registration** process.

Mid-Week Congress Tours

When completing your registration form you will need to select a tour that you would like to attend on Wednesday, July 20. There are nine tours to choose from as indicated in the table below. Greater detail on the Mid-Week Tours can be found in the attached materials.

Tour	Tour Stops	Distance (km)
Early History of Saskatchewan	Fort Carlton - Duck Lake - Batoche	270
U of S Research Tour	Univ of Saskatchewan - Crop Development Centre - AAFC - Kernan Prairie	<50
Forage & Livestock Research	Western Beef Development Centre - PoundMaker Feedlot	300
Saskatchewan Farms Tour	Western Development Museum - Case New Holland - Local Farm	<100
Specialized Livestock Tour	Western College of Veterinary Medicine - Bison Ranch - Wolverine Grazing Alliance	320
Industry of the Saskatoon Area	Cory Potash Mine - Great Western Brewing - Canadian Light Source Synchrotron	50
Dairy Research and Milk Production	Rayner Dairy Research & Teaching Facility - Western College of Vet Medicine - Kornelius Dairy - Feitsma Dairy	95
A Glimpse of the Northeast	AAFC Melfort Research Farm - Fort a la Corne Provincial Forest - Choiceland - Prince Albert	550
South Saskatchewan River Tour	Whitecap Dakota First Nation - Spring Creek Garden - Irrigation Diversification Centre - Gardiner Dam	265

Getting to IRC 2016

John G. Diefenbaker Airport - YXE

Delegates arriving by air will fly into John G. Diefenbaker International Airport (<http://yxe.ca/>). The airport is serviced by Air Canada, WestJet and Delta airlines. TCU Place and the Congress hotels are about a 10 min (5.5 km) drive from the airport. The airport information desk is located in the center of the main terminal and a security agent is there to assist with airport related questions. There is also a tourist information booth located in the middle of the arrivals area with information on Saskatoon.

Do you require a Visa or eTA?

Most travellers need a valid entry document such as an **Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)** or a **visa** to visit Canada. This will depend on your citizenship or your situation.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp> is the Canadian Government site that one should visit to see if they require a Visa or eTA

If you require an **official letter of invitation** to accommodate a Visa application, please send a scanned copy of your passport picture page to events@agwest.sk.ca

Canada has introduced a new entry requirement, known as an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. **Exceptions include U.S. citizens and travellers with a valid visa.** On March 15, 2016, this new requirement will become mandatory and travellers will need an eTA before they can board their flight to Canada.

Ground Transportation

Taxis

United Blueline Cabs Ltd. is licensed to operate the taxicab service from the designated pick-up and drop-off area at the Saskatoon airport. Metered fares apply. A taxi-coordinator is on duty from 7:30 am to the last arrival of the day to assist in ground transportation needs.

Outside of the airport, there are a number of cab companies for hire in Saskatoon.

United/Blueline	Comfort Cabs	Radio Cabs
1-306-652-2222 1-306-653-3333 http://www.unitedgroup.ca/	1-306-664-6464 http://www.comfortcab.ca/	1-306-242-1221

Limos

Pre-arranged limousine service is available with:

Connoisseur Limousine	Living Skies Limousine	Prestige Limousine
1-306-477-2200	1-306-955-9900	1-306-664-2222

Airport Shuttles

Of the six suggested hotels for the Congress, only the Parktown Hotel provides airport shuttle service.

Rental Cars

There are several car rental agencies that operate out of the Saskatoon airport. All rental vehicles are conveniently located in the parking lot just across curbside outside the terminal building.