

## 2015 AICF Douglas McRorie Memorial Scholarships Awarded

OTTAWA, 28 May, 2015 – The Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation (AICF) is pleased to announce the 2015 recipients of the Douglas McRorie Memorial Scholarship for graduate students in agricultural business, finance, economics and trade. Mr. René Roy, a student at McGill University, is the recipient of the \$5,000 PhD level award, and Ms. Victoria Zeppa, a student at the University of Alberta, is the recipient of the \$3,000 MSc level award.

This scholarship, which is made available through the support of the **RBC Foundation**, was established by the AICF in 1990 to honour past-president and agri-finance innovator Douglas McRorie, PAg, FAIC. Mr. McRorie served as Vice President of Agriculture for the Royal Bank of Canada and was a respected agricultural leader in Canada.

These award recipients are recognized for their academic achievements, areas of study, leadership and career interests.

**René Roy** is pursuing his PhD in Agricultural Economics at McGill University in Montreal. His research is focused on development of better methods to evaluate environmental goods and services provided by the agricultural sector that are not taken into account in traditional systems of economic accounting. He has worked on a new method to calculate farmland value, used social benefits functions to evaluate a menu of best management practices in agriculture, and is now working on improving econometric methods to capture non-market consumers' willingness to pay estimates that will help producers to better market their products.



Mr. Roy has served in several positions, including President, of Student Council at McGill. He founded the Association des Futurs Agronomes du Québec at the university to link students with their future professional association. He has also been a teaching assistant for a variety of courses during his Masters and doctorate studies.

René and his wife also operate the family farm, producing pork, dairy and maple syrup. He is President of the Board of Trade in his rural municipality, promoting entrepreneurship and business networking, and is a member of the board of directors of his agricultural cooperative, Unicoop. He is also Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Liberal Party of Canada, Quebec section. He has been a candidate in the federal election twice.

René's main career goals are to continue to be involved in the family farm, to remain involved in politics, and later to have a role in teaching. In the long term, he would also like take further education in public administration or law.

**Victoria Zeppa** is enrolled in the thesis-based MSc program in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta and has collaborated on her research with the Global Food Studies Research Unit at the University of Adelaide, Australia. Victoria's research investigates the evolutionary trajectory of *tebasan*. *Tebasan* is an informal harvesting institution that facilitates the pre-harvest sale of a mature horticultural crop from a farmer to a trader in Indonesia. While informal institutions can set the stage for formal market development, they deserve attention since they can also impede economic growth. *Tebasan* has manifested in a number of Indonesia's high-valued agricultural commodity markets, but its impact on market development remains unclear. As such, the objectives of Victoria's research are to use economic theory and econometric methods to: first, understand the emergence of *tebasan* and identify factors that contribute to its spread. Second, verify that *tebasan* contributes to improvements in the market. Third, identify policy measures that can enhance market performance and development to benefit both farmers and traders.



Before starting her Masters, Victoria completed her undergraduate degree in International Development and Globalization Studies at the University of Ottawa. During that time, Victoria conducted research in South Asia, East Africa and Central America and worked for a number of federal government departments.

Victoria is dedicated community involvement. She was the President of her graduate students' association, REESSA, from 2014-15 and currently volunteers at Youth Empowerment and Support Services, a local nonprofit organization that supports youth facing difficult realities. Upon graduating from her Masters program, Victoria aspires to advance her career in research and project management in the field of agricultural economics and international development. She hopes to do this by working for an international research institute and possibly pursuing further studies.

*The Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation is a federally registered charitable organization with a long record of inspiring knowledge and understanding of the importance of sustainable agriculture.*

- 30 -

For further information contact:  
Frances Rodenburg  
Manager, Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation  
[manager@aicfoundation.ca](mailto:manager@aicfoundation.ca)  
[www.aicfoundation.ca](http://www.aicfoundation.ca)