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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NATIONAL FARM UNION GAINS ACCREDITATION IN ONTARIO**

**GANANOQUE, Ont.**—"The farm union movement in Ontario got a boost with the decision to grant accreditation," said Ontario Co-ordinator for the National Farmers Union, Peter Dowling. "Our name will be in every farm kitchen this winter along with other accredited general farm organizations."

Dowling was commenting on a decision by the Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Tribunal to grant the NFU accreditation as a general farm organization in Ontario under the *Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act*. Under the *Act*, farm families must register their farms and choose an accredited organization to receive their membership cheque. This decision means that the National Farmers Union will appear as one of three options on the farm registration forms when they arrive in farm kitchens next January.

"Many Ontario farm families have been seeking an alternative voice," said NFU board member Don Mills. "The NFU in Ontario is now better positioned to represent their needs."

NFU Youth Advisory member Dave Lewington said: "The NFU will work to address the specific challenges facing young and beginning farmers."

NFU Women's Advisory member Colleen Ross Weatherhead said: "Accreditation is part of a grassroots movement that has been developing over several years. Our revitalization project has attracted many new farm families to the NFU and lots of support for the move to become accredited."

Dowling concluded: "We look forward to an expanded mandate to work with farm and rural groups in promoting the interests of farm families and rural communities."

The NFU and its predecessor the Ontario Farmers Union have worked for 50 years to represent the interests of farmers in Ontario and across the country. NFU policies embody strong support for orderly marketing and supply management and for collective action by farm families. And the NFU works to ensure that all members of the farm family—women, youth, and men—have an equal voice in formulating NFU policies.

Recently, the NFU has worked on issues such as electricity privatization, environmental impacts of fertilizer and manure, the farm income crisis, corporate concentration, the impacts of corporate hog production on farm families and rural communities, and the employment contributions of farm women and youth.

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