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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NFU NOW SET TO PROCEED WITH STRONG
FAMILY FARM AGENDA IN ONTARIO**

GANANOQUE, Ont.—At a recent hearing of the Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal, the NFU's accreditation as an Ontario General Farm Organization was upheld.

The path to accreditation has not been easy, however. The NFU was granted accreditation on Sept 20. Within days, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture called for a review of the Tribunal decision. "Our members showed tremendous poise and restraint while the OFA was forcing our organization through a frivolous challenge of our accreditation," said Peter Dowling, NFU Coordinator for Ontario.

With accreditation now confirmed, the NFU is set to proceed with a strong family farm agenda. "Up and down the back roads of Ontario there is a growing appetite for meaningful policies that will protect family farms and rural communities," said Ineke Booy, NFU Women's Advisory Committee member. She continued: "Ontario farmers have waited a long time for an organization that will stand up to the transnational corporations and globalization gurus that are at the root of the current farm income crisis. The revitalized NFU will continue to promote policies that will restore the family farm as a cornerstone of our food supply."

The NFU in Ontario promotes policies that will revitalize agriculture by strengthening family farms. On local, national, and international levels, the NFU advocates alternative structures and government policies that resist corporate control of food. With farmers and consumers, the NFU works to encourage vibrant rural communities, environmentally sustainable practices, and the production of safe, wholesome food.

"Our members are thrilled to welcome all farmers who seek to improve the social and economic position of family farms and rural communities," said Don Mills, NFU board member. "Most members sincerely hope that we can now work co-operatively with CFFO and OFA members on issues of common interest."

At its province-wide farm policy meeting in November, the NFU passed resolutions on a number of issues including corporate control of agricultural research, loss of small abattoirs, and the effects of globalization and genetically-modified crops on family farms. The concerns of farm families about the new nutrient management act and regulations will also be addressed in the coming months.

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