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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NFU PAST PRESIDENT NAMED TO ORDER OF CANADA

SASKATOON, Sask.—NFU past President Roy Atkinson has been named a member of the Order of Canada. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, announced the appointments on July 4. The Governor General's announcement included the following description of Roy Atkinson's achievements:

A lifelong farmer and outspoken advocate, he has been a leader in our national agriculture industry for 60 years. Working to ensure the continuation of the family farm as a way of life in western Canada, he dedicated his time and energy to farm-based organizations and unions. He served as the Director of Federated Cooperatives and held several leadership positions, including that of President of the Saskatchewan and the National Farmers Unions. Also respected as an advisor, he was elected to the Canadian Wheat Board for 20 years and was a member of the Economic Council of Canada.

- Roy Atkinson was President of the Saskatchewan Farmers Union from 1962 until 1969, and President of the National Farmers Union from 1969 until 1978.
- He served on the Economic Council of Canada in 1966 and '67.
- He was a member of the Canadian Wheat Board Advisory Committee from 1965 until 1994, and its Chair from 1980 until 1985.
- He was a Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Delegate from 1985 until 1994.
- In 1990, he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame.
- He was Co-Chairman of the Prairie Alliance for the Future from 1998 until 2001.
- He remains active in the farm movement.

NFU President Stewart Wells said: "The National Farmers Union is extremely proud of this recognition of the achievements of its founding President. Roy Atkinson has devoted his life to improving the situation for Canada's farm families. His achievements are impressive."

The Order of Canada was established in 1967 to recognize outstanding achievement and service in various fields of human endeavour. Appointments are made on the recommendation of an Advisory Council, chaired by the Chief Justice of Canada. The Governor General is the Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order.

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