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PRESS RELEASE for immediate distribution.

SouthGrow Issues Call for Applicants for Expanded Annual Agri-food Futures Scholarships

Southern Alberta

As part of an ongoing effort to invest in the future of the agri-food economy of Southern Alberta, the SouthGrow Regional Economic Development Alliance issued a call today for applicants to their annual Agri-food Futures Scholarships.

“For the first two years of the program we were offering two \$1,500 scholarships: one for a student attending the college, and one attending the university. Last year we partnered with MNP and AFSC to expand our offering to \$2,250 for each scholarship. This year we set our sights high and are very proud to offer the **Ridge Utilities Scholarship** and the **MNP LLP Scholarship** as a part of the **Southgrow Agri-Food Futures Scholarship Program**.” – Jim Willett, Board Chair

SouthGrow is keenly aware of how valued the agriculture and agri-food sector is to our region with more than 3500 farms operating on more than 4.3 million acres of cropland ([Alberta Regional Dashboard](#)) and that’s just primary production – there is an entire value chain driven by that production which we see everyday around the region.

“As a community-owned energy marketer, we are committed to reinvesting our profits back into the communities where our customers live. This scholarship program allows us to support the development of future leaders in agriculture and agrifood across a large portion of southern Alberta where we are based.” Scott Donselaar, General Manager Ridge Utilities.

"MNP is proud to sponsor a scholarship for a deserving student in the SouthGrow Region. This is our second year participating and we are excited to see the program expand with an increased investment in our youth - who are the future of agriculture "Bruce Warkentin, National Leader of Horticulture and Irrigation MNP LLP

Three scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 are up for grabs this year and will be awarded to students attending Lethbridge College, the University of Lethbridge, or Red Crow College.

The call for applicants is open until August 31, 2022

You can access the application guidelines and additional information at www.southgrow.com or by emailing peter.casurella@southgrow.com

For more information, please contact Chairperson Jim Willett:

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