



For Immediate Release

Hudak reaches out to rural Ontario

Guelph, ON [April 19, 2010] – Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak demonstrated his commitment to rural Ontario by meeting with key members of the recently formed Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) last week. With a mandate to provide a voice and leadership for a strong and vibrant rural Ontario, ROI was officially launched April 1, 2010.

Hudak sought the organization's ideas and shared his thoughts around issues facing rural Ontario now and in to the future. Health care, green energy, agriculture, rural research issues, education, leadership and rural capacity, and economic development were all on the agenda on Wednesday April 15 when Hudak visited ROI's Guelph office.

Rob Black, chief executive officer of ROI says, "We talked and Tim Hudak listened. He was interested and engaged in what the new Rural Ontario Institute is all about, as board members and staff shared their ideas about the future of our organization and the key issues impacting rural Ontario. Because of our network of knowledgeable community-minded rural leaders, ROI is an obvious choice when it comes to understanding the issues facing rural Ontario today and a go-to organization for developing sensible policy solutions."

"In our second week of operation, it's an incredible opportunity to be able to meet with Tim Hudak, leader of Ontario's opposition party," said Black. "I believe we were able to provide Mr. Hudak with a better understanding of how the Rural Ontario Institute is poised to provide a voice for rural Ontario going forward," shared Black.

Also at the table for the discussion were Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford and ROI board members Julie Cayley, Rob Hall, Rob Hannam, Chris White and chair, Jim Whaley.

Hudak addressed the participants of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) during their three day seminar in Toronto in February when the focus was on learning more about political process, urban society and media. AALP is a program of the Rural Ontario Institute.

The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2010. ROI has a mandate to provide rural leadership development and a mechanism to engage rural and multi-sector stakeholders for the purposes of informing and influencing rural policy development. ROI provides three core services – leadership training, stakeholder engagement and third-party program delivery.

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