



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RBC FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH THE CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF THE CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD POLICY INSTITUTE SPEARHEADING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE**

**OTTAWA, Ontario, September 9th, 2022** – The Canadian Agri-Food Foundation (CAFF) is excited to be a recipient of RBC Foundation fund through RBC Tech for Nature. This support from the RBC Foundation will partially fund the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute’s (CAPI) environmental sustainability initiative *Spearheading Sustainable Solutions* over the next two years, which aims to advance policy solutions that support the sector’s ongoing improvements to its sustainability.

The *Spearheading Sustainable Solutions* initiative includes CAPI’s Doctoral and Distinguished Fellowship programs and a project tackling agriculture and land use resiliency while balancing environmental goals with food security.

“Climate change and the issues we’re facing connects us all as we work to build a better future,” said Mark Beckles, Vice-President, Social Impact & Innovation, RBC. “Through RBC Tech for Nature and our partnerships, we are committed to bringing the power of innovative technologies to address and scale solutions to face this crisis together.”

This RBC Tech for Nature donation funds the 2022-2024 Doctoral Fellows program, which supports a transdisciplinary research network of doctoral students. This cohort’s research focus will be ‘the Intersection of Trade, Environment and Food Security’ and will cover five research papers, webinars, workshops, an advisory council, and professional development over the next two years.

RBC Tech for Nature will also contribute partial funding of CAPI’s Distinguished Fellows, who serve as ambassadors on critical policy issues within agriculture. CAPI’s most recent Distinguished Fellow, Grace Skogstad, is examining how organized interests in the agri-food sector interact with the shared jurisdiction that Canada’s federal and provincial governments enjoy over agriculture to shape policy-making for the agri-food sector. Distinguished Fellow and acclaimed journalist, Nicolas Mesly, is using his experience as an agricultural economist and ecological reporter to explore how Canada’s agri-food system can turn challenges surrounding water into an opportunity.

“Canadian agriculture and food is being called on to deliver critical environment, economic and food security outcomes, while facing increased pressure from volatile weather, markets and policy,” says Tyler McCann, CAPI Managing Director. “CAPI strives to advance policy solutions that deliver on the environmental outcomes through our *Spearheading Sustainable Solutions* initiative, made possible in part by RBC Tech for Nature’s generous contribution.”

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**The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI)**

The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute is an independent policy think tank focusing solely on the agri-food sector, bringing insight, evidence and creative solutions to agri-food policy makers by creating venues for critical conversations, explaining research results to a broader audience, and being a connector between those who have creative ideas to contribute, and those who are making impactful policy decisions. For more information, visit: [www.capi-icpa.ca](http://www.capi-icpa.ca)



### **The Canadian Agri-Food Foundation**

The objective of the Canadian Agri-Food Foundation (CAFF) is to promote excellence in the agriculture and agri-food industry in Canada for the benefit of the public by conducting research on best practices related to the agriculture and agri-food industry and disseminating the results of the research to the public, industry stakeholders, the policy research community, and the federal and provincial governments. CAFF operates at arms-length and independent from the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI). The directors at CAFF are in support of CAPI's goals, objectives and policies. CAPI acts as a delivery agent of CAFF.

### **RBC Tech for Nature**

The most pressing environmental concerns of our time are negatively impacting the planet at a rate that often outpaces the solutions designed to address them. The effects of climate change connects us all. Our shared future faces great challenges – from food security to air quality, from energy needs to access to clean water. There has never been a greater need for extraordinary solutions or more opportunity for leadership, collaboration, ingenuity and vision. RBC, recognizes that innovative technologies offer immense potential to help solve these environmental challenges. RBC is leveraging its capabilities in technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain as well as its convening power to build solutions and the type of multi-partner coalitions needed to address and solve our shared environmental challenges.

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