



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA RELEASE

STRATFORD AND PERTH COUNTY WELCOME IRISH DELEGATION TO KICK OFF CANADIAN DAIRY XPO

Canada and Ireland strengthen dairy ties as international leaders gather in Stratford

Stratford, ON, Wednesday, April 1, 2026 – **Stratford and Perth County welcomed an international delegation this evening for a special “Dinner with Enterprise Ireland,” made possible through a collaborative partnership between Enterprise Ireland, the City of Stratford, and Perth County.** The event was an unofficial kickoff to the 12th edition of the Canadian Dairy XPO. Taking place at Pazzo Pizzeria, the gathering brings together Canadian and Irish dairy leaders, government representatives, and industry partners to celebrate innovation, collaboration, and global opportunity in the dairy sector.

A highlight of the evening is the presence of **Claire Fitzgibbon, Consul General of Ireland**, alongside representatives from Enterprise Ireland. Their visit underscores the strong and growing relationship between Ireland and Canada’s dairy industries.

The dinner precluded the opening of Stratford’s Canadian Dairy XPO, Canada’s largest dairy industry showcase, taking place April 1–2 at the Stratford Rotary Complex. The event will feature more than 300 exhibitors from 30 countries and is expected to attract thousands of producers and industry professionals from across North America.

“Perth County is proud to be at the heart of Canada’s dairy industry, and we are honoured to welcome our Irish partners to our community,” said **Dean Trentowsky, Warden of Perth County**. “This special partnership with Enterprise Ireland and the City of Stratford reflects the continued strength and resilience of our agricultural sector; and it also emphasized the continued importance of international collaboration in driving innovation and growth.”

“Stratford continues to build its reputation as a hub for agricultural innovation and global partnerships,” said **Martin Ritsma, Mayor of Stratford**. “We are proud to work alongside Enterprise Ireland and Perth County to host this event and to showcase the opportunities that exist right here in our region.”

Enterprise Ireland, the Irish Government’s trade and innovation agency, supports the global expansion of Irish companies and has been actively engaging with local producers, including touring Perth County farms ahead of the event.

With Perth County home to the highest concentration of dairy farms in Canada, and Stratford serving as a centre for agri-food innovation, the evening provides a unique platform to strengthen international relationships, share expertise, and explore new business opportunities.

The Canadian Dairy XPO continues to grow in global significance, drawing 17,600 attendees in 2025—82 percent of whom were active dairy farmers—and achieving a 98 percent return intention rate for 2026.

-30-

About investStratford:

investStratford is committed to advancing the economic future of Stratford, Ontario, Canada through investment in arts, education, and industry. Globally Connected | Community Driven For more info visit: investStratford.com

For further information contact:

Joani Gerber, CEO, investStratford, 519-305-5055 x1001

Elke Bidner, Marketing and Communications Lead 519-305-5055 x1003