The nine Mid-Congress Tours all take place on Wednesday, July 20th.

Each tour will depart from TCU Place - departure times will be posted at a later date - and all tours will end at Wanuskewin Heritage Park for dinner and evening entertainment between 5:30 and 6 pm. A delicious bison barbecue will be followed by a performance by Plains First Nations drummers and dancers. At the end of the evening, the buses will return delegates to TCU Place (buses will leave Wanuskewin starting at 8:45 pm).

The Mid-Congress Tours are included with the full, student and accompanying persons registration packages. When registering for the Congress you will select which Mid-Congress Tour you want to go on from the list of tours with spots still remaining.

### Mid-Congress Tours

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Tour #1 - Early History of Saskatchewan Tour

Fort Carlton - Duck Lake - Batoche (270 km)

This tour will take you back to the early days of the Saskatchewan. The first stop will be Fort Carlton Provincial Park. Fort Carlton takes you back in time to the rugged, adventurous days of the fur trade before Canada was a country. This is the original site of a Hudson’s Bay Company fur-trading post that operated between 1810 and 1885. Today, you will see a reconstructed palisade, fur and provisions store, trade store, clerk’s quarters, and tepee encampment; each of these appears much like they would have in the late 1800s. You can see, touch and smell artifacts such as buffalo hides, beaver pelts, war clubs, blankets, guns, twist tobacco, birch bark baskets and so much more. Staff will guide you through these areas, answering your questions and leading you in activities like playing the spoons or packing furs for the trip to England.

From Fort Carlton, the participants will stop at the Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre Museum. The Regional Interpretive Centre invites you to experience life from days gone by - from the everyday struggles of the Pioneers, to the devastating impact that the near extinction of the buffalo had on the First Nations, and to the harsh aftermath of the North West Resistance for the Metis. Lunch will be served at the Duck Lake Interpretive Centre.

The last stop will be the national historic site at Batoche, 100 km northeast of Saskatoon. Batoche is the site where the North-West Rebellion (North-West Resistance) of 1885 ended. That rebellion was the only conflict ever fought on Saskatchewan soil. The North-West rebellion was a brief and unsuccessful uprising by the Métis people under Louis Riel, and an associated uprising by First Nations Cree and Assiniboine, of the District of Saskatchewan against the government of Canada. During a time of great social change in Western Canada, the Métis believed that the Canadians had failed to address the protection of their rights, their land and
their survival as a distinct people. Despite some notable early victories at Duck Lake, Fish Creek and Cut Knife, the rebellion ended when the Métis were defeated at the siege of Batoche which led to the eventual scattering of their allied Aboriginal forces, and the trial and hanging of Louis Riel and eight First Nations leaders.
Tour # 2 - University of Saskatchewan Research Tour

University of Saskatchewan - College of Agriculture & Bioresources - Crop Development Centre - Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada - Kernan Prairie (< 50 km)

Participants on this tour will be guided on a walking tour through the heart of the University of Saskatchewan Campus. The University of Saskatchewan (U of S) is a Canadian public research university, located in Saskatoon. The university began as an agricultural college in 1907 and established the first Canadian university-based department of extension in 1910. One hundred and twenty one hectares were set aside for university buildings and 405 ha for the U of S farm, and agricultural fields. In total 10.32 km² was annexed for the university.

Tour the College of Agriculture and Bioresources building including the plant growth chambers and seed storage facilities. See and hear about the forage plant breeding program and the many research projects underway to support the development of new and improved varieties for Western Canada. This tour will also include the U of S Crop Development Centre. The Crop Development Centre (CDC) is a field crop research organization within the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. CDC scientists integrate basic research with genetic improvement of spring wheat, durum, canaryseed, barley, oat, flax, field pea, lentil, chickpea, fababean and dry bean. The final stop for this tour is Kernan Prairie, a small remnant of prairie vegetation located at the University. Here you will hear about native prairie conservation and research including grazing, fire and control of invasive plants.
Tour # 3 - Forage and Livestock Research Tour

Western Beef Development Centre (300 km)

Applied research is keeping this province’s cattle industry strong. The Western Beef Development Centre (WBDC) located near Lanigan, 150 km east of Saskatoon is one of two Saskatchewan research facilities integrating livestock and forage research. Established in 1996, WBDC is a division of the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute. WBDC’s team of management, scientific and technical staff conduct research related to cow-calf and forage production and extend findings to beef and forage producers across the province.

Participants on this tour will view the WBDC field research projects including introduction of bloat-free legumes into existing pasture stands and sainfoin for northern region adaptation, and hear about other on-going applied forage and cow/calf related research being conducted at the ranch.
Tour # 4 - Saskatchewan Farms Tour

Western Development Museum - Case New Holland - Local Farm (<100 km)

See how far farming has come in Saskatchewan, from the farm machinery of the early 1900’s to today’s modern equipment. This tour will start with a tour of the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. Here you will see the farm equipment of the early settlers that built his province. Meet the Worthys. This 21,000 square foot exhibit traces a representative family’s journey through 100 years, from arrival at the turn of the 20th century to the present day. Visitors can follow the Worthy family’s generations as each of them face the challenges of farming in Saskatchewan.

Next stop will be a modern farm equipment manufacturer in Saskatoon. Case New Holland (CNH) is Canada’s largest farm implement manufacturer and has become an important employer in the Saskatoon area. The 54,068 square meter plant is operating at capacity. The company has a competent and highly motivated work force. As well, CNH has recently purchased a nearby 9,290 square meter facility, which will be used as a permanent showroom and training centre.

This tour will also include a visit to a local grain and livestock farm so you can see for yourself how far Saskatchewan farming has come from those early pioneer days.
Tour # 5 - Specialized Livestock Tour

Western College of Veterinary Medicine - Bison Ranch - Wolverine Grazing Alliance (320 km)

Meet with Dr. Murray Woodbury, the current Research Chair of the Specialized Livestock Research at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), University of Saskatchewan. The program is a product of Federal and Provincial funding, creating a Research Chair and a Specialized Livestock Research Program at WCVM to promote and perform basic and applied research on deer, elk and bison. View the animals and handling facilities designed specifically for each species.

Although bison roamed the North American Great Plains for centuries, the commercial bison industry in Canada is only about 30 years old. With Saskatchewan being part of their native range, bison are well suited to our environment. They are one of the diversified livestock species that has emerged with significant potential. There are approximately 150,000 bison on 1000 farms in Canada. Saskatchewan is home to about 30% of the national population. The tour will visit a commercial sized working bison ranch to see how the animals are raised, grazed, handled and managed.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is divesting management of 62 Community Pastures (over 1.6 million acres) to the Province of Saskatchewan. The Province is working with the existing livestock producers who use these lands to lease and operate them in the future. The tour will visit the newly formed Wolverine Grazing Alliance to discuss the transition and operation of their pasture, and view the landscape and forage species the Alliance is managing.
Tour # 6 - Industry of the Saskatoon Area Tour

Cory Potash Mine - Great Western Brewing - Canadian Light Source Synchrotron (50 km)

Saskatchewan is more than just wide open spaces and living skies. Saskatchewan is the second largest potash producer in the world. Ten potash mines operate in this province. Four are each located just a short drive from Saskatoon. The tour will begin by visiting the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan (PCS) Cory mine where facility staff will provide an overview of how potash is mined in this province.

The tour will then visit The Great Western Brewing Company, an integral component in the Saskatchewan business community since opening for business in 1989. The Brewery was built in Saskatoon in 1927 and operated under the name of Hub City Brewing Company. The plant became the Western Canada Brewing Company in 1930 and then Drewery’s Limited in 1932. The Brewery was acquired in 1956 and operated as O’Keefe Brewing until 1989. In 1989, the Great Western Brewing Company was formed.

The final stop of this tour will visit the Canadian Light Source (CLS) Synchrotron located on the University of Saskatchewan campus. The CLS is a world-class, state-of-the-art facility that is advancing Canadian science and enhancing the competitiveness of Canadian industry. This tool can be used to probe matter and analyze a host of physical, chemical, geological and biological processes.
Tour # 7 - Dairy Research and Milk Production Tour

Rayner Dairy Research & Teaching Facility - Western College of Veterinary Medicine - Kornelius Dairy - Feitsma Dairy  (95 km)

The tour will include a visit to the Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility located on the University of Saskatchewan. This facility accommodates 100 lactating cows with both robotic and parlor milking capabilities, animal handling and teaching areas, and research and staff space. The site also allows for feed storage and preparation areas within and around the facility. A viewing gallery in this new facility accommodates public access and education on modern dairy production systems. Research performed in the new facility includes: dairy nutrition and feed development, animal fertility and health, animal management, technology development, application of information technologies, and development of green technologies for improved sustainability.

You will also tour two family-owned dairies in the Saskatoon area. View their facilities and hear firsthand the opportunities and challenges of milk production in Saskatchewan.
Tour # 8 - A Glimpse of the Northeast Tour

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Melfort Research Farm - Fort a la Corne Provincial Forest - Choiceland - Prince Albert (550 km)

Climb aboard, grab a seat and hang on to your hat. We are proud of this province and want to show you as much of it as we comfortably can on a one day tour. This tour will travel though three eco-zones; prairie, aspen parkland and boreal forest. From some of the best farmland in Saskatchewan to jackpine forest and rolling hills, this tour will give you a glimpse of the landscape of a small part of northeast Saskatchewan. From Saskatoon we will make our way northeast though wheat fields that made this province the breadbasket of the world. Those brilliant yellow fields are canola, now Saskatchewan’s number one crop. Quick stops along the way will provide an opportunity to view crops and native vegetation and soils of the region.

The main stop will be about 200 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Melfort Research Farm just outside the city of Melfort (pop. 5000). This research farm is situated on some of the best farmland in the province. At Melfort we will tour some of the forage crop demonstrations and be treated to a barbeque lunch by the staff. After lunch the tour will continue north across the Saskatchewan River and through the jackpines of the Fort a la Corne Provincial Forest. There are diamonds in these hills. Recent exploration has found diamond bearing kimberlite and now the push is on to build a mine.

As we leave the forest, the landscape will once again open up into level, productive farmland and the small town of Choiceland. From Choiceland we head back west. We are now about 16
km from the northern provincial forest, the northern most extent of farming in Saskatchewan. This land needed to first be cleared of aspen and spruce trees by bulldozer before it could be farmed.

The tour will continue west to the province’s fourth largest city, Prince Albert (pop. 40,000), the ‘Gateway to the North’ as it is known. Within an hour drive north of this city lies the Lakeland area. The recreational destinations of Emma Lake Provincial Park and Prince Albert National Park draw thousands of tourists each year.
Tour # 9 - South Saskatchewan River Tour

**Beaver Creek Conservation Area - Spring Creek Garden - Irrigation Diversification Centre - Gardiner Dam (265 km)**

The South Saskatchewan River Tour begins by travelling to the Beaver Creek Conservation Area (BCCA) is located 13 km south of Saskatoon off Highway #219. BCCA was established in 1979 and an interpretive centre opened in 1984. A microcosm of the Meewasin Valley, it is located where a prairie creek meets a prairie river. It contains one of the few uncultivated short grass prairie sites in Saskatchewan. The beavers that live there play an important role in keeping the creek habitat teeming with wildlife. A walking tour will provide oversight on projects BCCA is undertaking including: sheep grazing, burning and species biodiversity.

From the BCCA, the tour will travel to Spring Creek Garden, a family owned and operated commercial vegetable operation. Spring Creek Garden began as one greenhouse and a small garden patch. Since its beginning in the late 1980s, Spring Creek Garden has grown exponentially to be over 100 acres in size. In 2015, Spring Creek planted over 150 acres of

The tour will travel from Spring Creek Garden to the Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC), an irrigation research and demonstration farm, located in Outlook. CSIDC was established in the 1940s as an irrigation pre-development farm, created to
assist farmers in developing and managing irrigation. Today, CSIDC investigates and demonstrates crops, technologies, and best management practices that help producers to sustain land and water resources while maintaining their economic viability.

From CSIDC, the tour will travel to Gardiner Dam. In 1967, the Gardiner Dam and Lake Diefenbaker projects were completed. With the construction of Gardiner Dam, development of irrigation infrastructure in the region followed. Today over 100,000 acres of irrigation in the Lake Diefenbaker area have been developed. The Gardiner Dam on the South Saskatchewan River is the third largest embankment dam in Canada and one of the largest embankment dams