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Instructors rally to save farm at Riverbend Institution **LATEST NEWS**

TESSA HOLLOWAY

The Prince Albert Daily Herald

Workers at Riverbend Institution rallied Thursday morning against the shutdown of their farm, arguing inmates learning the trade will be left high and dry.

The federal government announced in February that they are closing all six prison farming programs citing a \$4 million price tag to operate six farms in Canada and a perceived lack of demand for farming skills.

But the Union of Solicitor General Employees and local farming instructors say the program gives inmates essential training and character building and called the closure shortsighted.

"This government of Canada essentially has said that farming doesn't matter, that these aren't marketable skills that farmers are learning that they can take into the community," said Barry Stolar, regional vice-president of USGE.

"(They haven't said) what they're going to replace it with. We've asked and they've said we're not sure."

Twelve instructors will be out of a job when the facility closes by the end of the year, and already the abattoir, feed lot, hog operations are closed and the fields were left unplanted this year. Only the dairy and poultry operations remain fully used.

For more information, see the Daily Herald on Friday, July 24.

23/07/09



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kim from sk writes: good for the government really how many farming jobs out there. silly idea have make all the imates work

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Johnny Drama from Saskatchewan writes: The guy in the picture is Andrew Herdin not Gary Forrest, might wanna fix that caption D.H.

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Johnny Drama from Saskatchewan writes: The guy in the picture is Andrew Herdin not Gary Forrest, might wanna fix that caption D.H.

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G from British Columbia writes: GOOD MOVE- now why would the government ever want an inmate feel a sense of pride and accomplishment in learning how to fend for himself by growing his own food and get back to the land....I think open that gate and let him go to safeway and borrow some food when he doesn't have the money or skills to fend for himself. afterall food doesn't come from the land It all comes in Big Trucks from Somewhere Else Once again STUPID STUID MOVE GOVERNMENT BEAUREACRAT

Posted 24/07/2009 at 1:32 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)



Gary Forrest, a farm instructor at the Riverbend Institution, hands out leaflets to people entering the Saskatchewan Penitentiary and Riverbend Institutions in the hopes of saving the farm. Herald Photo Tessa Holloway

an indian from sk, sk writes: This Institution is nothing but a place for more Aboriginals to slave for the Instructors.To keep the programs in place for a paycheck.Farmers have been always lobbying Governments for ever,Something like receiving a welfare cheque.Employees don't care about the inmates and ARE ONLY THERE FOR THE MONEY.If you aren't able to keep afloat.Oh your gonna say,but it feeds the inmates,it teaches them to learn cooking.This sounds more like business.Tax payers are taxed enough already,so don't bother to ask them.Why on earth would the inmates want to be farmers,or farmers helpers.When there is hardly any farms out there to begin with,and who would want to hire a exconvict.Who?really,Who,because on a recent Article,it said 80% Aboriginal population in jails.

Posted 26/07/2009 at 9:27 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

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