

Free Trees, Free Plastic Mulch, Free Drip Irrigation Two Billion Tree Initiative Rural Resident Application/Expression of Interest

Alert for Saskatchewan Residents Who Own Land in an Rural Municipality

Weyburn based HELP International is submitting a major proposal to the federal government's Two Billion Tree Program.

HELP has provided an information release to all Saskatchewan RMs. HELP proposes to provide free trees, free 3.2 mil plastic mulch as well as free drip irrigation to rate payers in seven municipalities per year over a seven year period.

To qualify for consideration an RM must identify seven landowners within the RM who wish to participate in the free tree, free plastic mulch and free drip irrigation program. The federal government is not convinced of the need for drip irrigation so asked that HELP itself provide the free drip irrigation component, which we agreed to.

In HELP's proposed program, each landowner would be provided free of charge with:

- A) 1000 free woody species 2 year old tree seedlings of their choice from a wide range of hardy poplars, willows, plus maple, ash, elm and several evergreen varieties.
- B) 25 free three to seven feet tall potted sapling poplars or willows or four year of potted spruce.
- C) 50 free habitat brush trees chosen from lilac, cariganna, chokecherry, dogwood, buffalo berry, sea buckthorn, sand cherry.
- D) 1,500 m of free ½ inch drip line with pre-installed emitters for tree lines up to 500 m or free 1,500 m of heavy duty 7/8 inch drip line for punch and pop in emitters for tree lines longer than 500 m. Both lines come with tree line disk filter, valves, emitters and accessories.
- E) 1,500 m of free 3.2 mil plastic mulch film
- F) Free shipping of the free goods to the landowner's nearest town for hand-over.
- G) Free replacement trees for 24 months after the initial date of planting.

Note that each landowner is given sufficient mulch film and drip line for roughly half of the 3,000 m of tree lines he/she will install. The landowner is expected to utilize traditional weed control and irrigation for the half of the tree lines where mulch film and drip line is not installed.

Remember, to qualify there should be seven landowners from an RM to qualify. If there are insufficient RMs with seven landowners who want the program then HELP will allow participation of landowners with the highest number of landowners who have applied.

Shipping: HELP will provide free shipping of the trees, plastic mulch and drip irrigation materials to each participating RM.

Advice: In addition to a wealth of valuable information on shelterbelt planning on our website, HELP will provide free telephone advice with landowners in assisting the planning of shelterbelt and plantings for any other purpose ensuring to match the most appropriate trees for the landscape and soil conditions.

Should producers or acreage owners require an on-site assessment and planning session, HELP will provide a one to two hour on site for a cost to the landowner of \$250.

The program requires landowners to install the trees, plastic mulch and drip irrigation on their own. HOWEVER, if landowners prefer, they can contract HELP's affiliate organization GRDC to install at contract rates. Cost of installation of 1075 trees on up to 3,000 m of tree lines, plus install plastic mulch and drip irrigation on 1,500 meters of those tree lines the contract cost for GRDC assisted installation would be \$4,500. GRDC is not looking for this work but if required GRDC is considered the most efficient and accurate in planting, mulching and irrigation installation with several field innovations built in including the construction of a 2-4 gallon water well/funnel at each tree seedling.

If and once HELP's proposal to the 2 Billion Tree program is accepted HELP will coordinate directly with each landowner to coordinate the month and timing for free trees and materials handover at your nearest town for 2025 or 2026.

If you wish to be considered please mobilize your neighbors and send this expression of interest below to helpint@sasktel.net and send a copy of the same to your RM office. The revised deadline for landowner expression of interest is February 28. Deadline for RM expression of interest to HELP is March 30.

Actual tree programming under this first round of free materials program is 2025 and 2026.

Name: _____

RM Name: _____

Your Cell Tel: _____ Your Email: _____

What describes my land base: Grain Farm Cattle Farm Mixed Farm Acreage Other:

I hereby declare my interest in the HELP administered program under the 2-Billion Tree Program.

I have access to the machinery to pre-work by deep fine tilling 3,000 meters of tree lines (Example: 1,000 meters x three tree lines or four tree rows of 750 m or five rows of 600 m etc). I will ensure I can sink up to my ankles in well worked garden texture soil with fiber removed or totally incorporated.

I understand that I will return to HELP any plastic mulch or drip line that I do not utilize in the tree planting so HELP can re-assign it to other participants.

My situation for planting, mulch laying and drip line installation:

- A) I am totally capable of installing the following free materials (valued at \$7,500) on my own: 1,000 trees on 3,000 meters of tree lines; 25 potted saplings; 50 brush plants; 1,500 m of plastic mulch film; and 1,500 m of irrigation drip line: YES NO
- B) I can install on my own with HELP's website & free call in advice to educate myself more YES NO
- C) I intend on paying \$250 to access HELP's on site assessment and planning session at my land location YES NO
- D) I will prioritize application of the 1,500 m of mulch film and 1,500 m of drip line on the half of my 3,000 m of tree planting that is most drought prone and promise to use more traditional forms of weed control and watering for the 1,500 m that will not have mulch film and drip line: Yes No
- E) I would rather contract HELP's affiliate GRDC to contract install 3,000 m of trees plus 1,500 m of plastic mulch and 1,500 m of drip line and construct manifolds etc with me providing tractor/driver and two assistants and a quad plus one 5-10 lb stone for each seedling and to work with GRDC's technical team who comes with free materials plus tree planter, mulch machine, and drip line reels etc. I understand that contracting GRDC to assist in installation will cost me \$4,500. I probably intend to contract these GRDC services YES NO
- F) I am committed to carrying out diligent deep fine pre-tilling, installations plus four years of the following: residual weed control, inter-row cultivation or inter-row shallow root turf grass seeding, ensuring watering 10 liters per seedling per week May through mid September; spraying warm mild detergent water (or safely used pesticides) on trees when necessary to control spider mites, sawfly worm and other common pests.

The reasons for my tree planting apart from sharing the 2 Billion Tree's priority in Carbon Sequestration includes the following (Mark an X on all that apply i.e.: an X means Yes

Shelterbelt Habitat Development Field boundaries Converting Cultivated Stream Margin
to forest buffer Salinity Control Snow Trapping to Fill Dug-outs Other: Describe:

Note the participation does depend upon approval of HELP's proposal by the federal government. To show HELP's goodwill, should the program not receive federal government funding HELP will provide a special 30% discount off any trees, plastic mulch and drip line and accessories to any 2-Billion Tree Program applicant who wishes to purchase the materials if HELP is not provided by federal government. HOWEVER, HELP is confident that federal government funding will be achieved.

Please email this application to HELP at helpint@sasktel.net and send copy to your RM office.

Or send by Canada Post to: HELP International
2 Billion Tree Program
P.O. Box 1201,
Weyburn, SK. S4H 1L5