

# Growing Tomorrow

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## Federal Related

*Harvard hears Canada's alternative to farm subsidies*

Canada has begun an international campaign to promote its Agricultural Policy Framework as an alternative to farm subsidies and the key to long-term profitability for farmers.

In an address to officials, professors and students at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government — Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief said Canada chose this approach to stem a cycle of dependency on subsidies. The Minister took the opportunity to

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Application of *Trichogramma Sibericum* to Control Fireworm in Cranberries - Fraserland Farms, Delta

## Putting BMW's on every farm

Biological mini wasps, BMW's for short, are only 0.3mm long and thousands can fit in the palm of your hand.

A wasp native to BC, *Trichogramma sibericum*, is proving itself to be a great ally in BC cranberry growers' ongoing battle with the Black-Headed Fireworm. The wasp destroys the eggs of the Fireworm as they rest on cranberry plants. Hence the Fireworms never mature and damage is mitigated early on.

The BC Cranberry Growers Association is undertaking this multi-year project aimed at establishing the effectiveness of the *T. sibericum* in controlling the Fireworm. The initiative entails rearing and introducing mass quantities of

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*T. sibericum* wasps to BC cranberry fields, and monitoring results.

Over \$115,000 in funding has been provided by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC for this \$298,000 project. "The Foundation makes environmental sustainability a priority," says Foundation Berry Sector Director, Rhonda Driediger. "The Fireworm project develops an innovative pest management solution that is environmentally and economically beneficial. The Foundation has also provided funding to the BC Raspberry Industry Development Council for a separate *Trichogramma* project."

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call for global agriculture subsidy reform, arguing that the current subsidies in Europe, Japan and the U.S. are making the world's poorest farmers poorer.

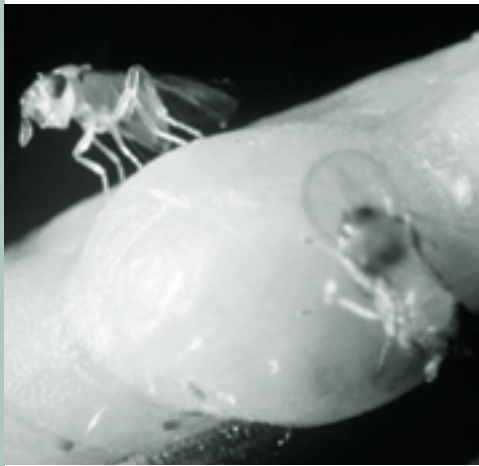
The Minister's comments reflect Canada's larger objectives in the current World Trade Organization negotiations: to phase out export subsidies, reduce trade-distorting domestic support, and improve market access for all agriculture and agri-food products. In essence, what Canada is calling for is a level international playing field for agricultural trade policy reform this country has already launched at home.

Minister Vanclief told the Harvard audience that, "Ensuring equal access for all to international markets requires a WTO resolution to abandon traditional subsidies in favour of methods to empower producers. The effect of trade-distorting subsidies is overwhelming and long lasting. But, unlike drought or floods, subsidies are a man-made disaster and it should be possible to find a man-made solution."

The framework includes five key areas: food safety and quality, business risk management, the environment, science and innovation, and sector renewal.

"Our work in these five areas will enable us to develop support for our family farms through an integrated, trade-neutral, risk-management system — one that demonstrates how food safety and income challenges can be met without the introduction of trade-distorting subsidies," said Minister Vanclief. ■

## BMW's on every farm *continued*



*Trichogramma* female searching for a pest egg - John Lange, University of Guelph.

This project is another example of a "Developed in BC" integrated pest management solution or non-chemical method of pest control supported by funding from Investment Agriculture. With increasing concern among consumers

and environmental groups over the use of pesticides, it's also an idea whose time has come.

"Cranberry growers have been involved in integrated pest management for a long time," says Brian Mauza, Research Director of the BC Cranberry Growers Association. "*T. sibericum* is filling one more niche in the continuing need for alternative pest management strategies."

Not only is the program yielding valuable data on new forms of integrated pest management, it's simultaneously building growers' confidence in alternative ways to manage pests.

A third and continuing component of the project is to establish a viable business model based on rearing the wasps. ■

## Peace Value Added

### *Peace Region Has Gourmet Tastes*



Food Fest Culinary Competition featuring Peace Region Products.

Small-scale Peace Region processors are going gourmet ... with jam, syrup, vinegar and other value added products that command prices to match their epicurean appeal.

Thanks to local initiative, with support from the Investment Agriculture Foundation and the Agriculture and Food Council of Alberta — producers and entrepreneurs are starting up their own value added businesses in the Peace Region.

Peace Region producers have long wanted to make the leap into this lucrative end of the food chain, but they lacked the support and know-how. Two years ago, a "needs assessment" revealed the need for a central organization that would provide expertise in adding value. The Peace Value Added Food & Ag Association was created to fill that niche.

The Foundation is contributing over \$33,000 in funding to the \$72,000 project. “Rural development and value added initiatives are Foundation priorities — the new Peace Value Added Food & Ag Association was a great match for those priorities,” says Foundation Chair, L. Gary Kenwood.

“We want to keep our products here and process them in this region,” says Association President Fred Burton. “Producers benefit directly through increased profits and a developing market for Peace Region products. As well, the local economy benefits from the influx of capital.”

Success stories are spreading. Last July, Gail Briggs of Briggswood Country Preserves

opened the Peace Region’s first federally inspected processing facility. And despite modest budgets, Peace products are achieving “brand awareness.”

The Association supports over 25 members from BC and Alberta. “The most important components of our mandate are market development and member support,” notes Burton. “The people who have been in the processing business for a while help the new processors. It’s like a mentor relationship.”

For more information, visit the Peace Value Added Food & Ag Association’s website at [www.peacecountryproducts.com](http://www.peacecountryproducts.com) or contact their office at 250-782-5745. ■

## Surrey Agricultural Plan

### *Surrey Plan Accommodates Urban Agriculture*



From Left to Right: Mike Bose – Chair, Surrey Agriculture Advisory Committee; John Tamis – Owner, Lindrian Holsteins & Guerneys; Janine – daughter; Linda Tamis – wife and owner.

The threat of urban encroachment on agricultural land is as old as the industrial revolution. It continues today.

But in Surrey, that conflict is not irreconcilable. A plan developed by the Surrey Farmer’s Institute and the Surrey Agricultural Advisory Committee is

showing that a growing community and agriculture can coexist. One third of Surrey’s land base is designated as agricultural. Its farms and greenhouses produce 20 per cent of BC’s total vegetable output, and its farms account for the majority of celery, carrots, onions and lettuce.

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## New Application

### *Announcing our New Application Process*

Over the past year, we’ve looked closely at the application process from your perspective and have made significant changes to our Application Form and Guideline. Providing applicants with convenient, easy to use tools for preparing and submitting their applications is our goal.

What’s new is a more efficient, streamlined and easy process — with on-line tools to guide you through every step. We have also included information about the option of submitting a “Letter of Intent” as an early first step in the application process.

Jane Stock, Executive Director of the BC Landscape & Nursery Association was one of 18 clients who had a chance to review and “pilot test” the new application. “I really like it. I think it progresses in a logical fashion and the application guide provides practical, easy-to-follow steps and tips. Well done,” said Ms. Stock.

The Foundation has also added staff to improve our information flow and communications with applicants. Al Oliver is our new Manager of Program Delivery and he is here to support you in developing and completing your applications. All of these changes are part of the Foundation’s ongoing commitment to serve industry better and to improve communications. We hope you like the changes and look forward to receiving your applications and comments.

Here are some of the highlights of our new suite of Application products:

- An electronic application form available on-line; including templates in MS Word and MS Excel. [www.iafbc.ca](http://www.iafbc.ca)

## New Application *continued*

- An on-line Application Guide providing easy-to-follow details about the information required.
- Examples of completed Expenditure and Funding Plans.
- Draft applications can be reviewed and edited using email.
- Electronic filing of Applications with the Foundation.

## Surrey Agricultural Plan *continued*

As such, agriculture is profoundly important to the region. The objectives of the plan, known as the Surrey Agricultural Plan, are to maintain agricultural activities and enhance agricultural viability; and to provide a comprehensive framework to address agricultural development issues, resolve rural-urban conflicts, and ensure the long-term viability of agriculture.

Much of the plan's success comes from education. Each year, municipal politicians and senior staff tour Surrey farms, to speak directly to farmers, discuss challenges and solutions, and gain renewed respect for the benefits of sustainable agriculture.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation contributed \$30,000 toward the \$60,000 cost of developing the plan. Daryl Arnold, chair of the Surrey Farmers' Institute, says the plan has sparked a paradigm shift: "The Surrey Agricultural Plan promotes greater awareness of how City development affects agriculture, and as a result, City Council has a more effective tool to address the challenges facing present and future growth."

## 2003 Application Deadlines

The following dates have been established to provide an effective administrative process for proposals going to the Foundation's Board for consideration. **Feb 28, Mar 28, May 2, May 23, Sept 5 and Oct 31.**

## Overview of Projects Funded

### Projects approved in the period August 16, 2002 to December 31, 2002

Project proposals approved	7
The Foundation contribution	\$457,196
<b>Total value of projects</b>	<b>\$1,073,651</b>

### Summary of total projects approved by the Foundation to December 31, 2002

Letters of Intent received	162
Applications received	386
Number of projects approved	261

For a detailed listing of approved projects please check out our web site [www.iafbc.ca](http://www.iafbc.ca).

<b>Total Funding Commitment</b>	<b>\$ 13,651,364</b>
<b>Total Value of Projects Approved</b>	<b>\$ 46,529,444</b>

Funding for the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia is provided by:

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