



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Manager Joins Investment Agriculture Foundation**

**October 23, 2006 – Victoria, B.C.** The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. is pleased to announce that Bill Henderson has joined the Foundation's team as the manager of program development and implementation effective today.

In this role, Bill's responsibilities will include working with industry and government to advance the strategies and actions of the Focus on the Future initiative and to manage other IAF-sponsored initiatives that will help create a stronger future for the B.C. agri-food sector.

"Bill has a flair for unifying diverse stakeholders and balancing competing demands to achieve priority goals," said Al Helmersen, IAF executive director. "These qualities are vital to the success of Focus on the Future as it moves further along the implementation curve."

Bill is a seasoned not for profit executive with a proven track record built on an ability to think strategically. As president, general manager and a member of the board of the Tri-Cities Enterprise Centre in Washington State – a full service non-profit business incubation centre – Bill created a new vision for the Center which led to its long-term sustainability. As vice president of the Washington Association of Small Business Incubators, he helped author and successfully present two funding bills to Washington State legislative committees.

As general manager of the Hamilton Incubator of Technology in Ontario, Bill expanded the city-owned, university-affiliated biotech business incubator from six to 22 clients with 100 employees and brought the deficit-prone organization to self-sufficiency in 18 months.

Coaching and training are another area in which Bill excels. Bill built the eastern U.S. region of a global training company from 12 to 55 franchises across 16 states and played a key role in the design and delivery of sales training programs. Most recently, Bill served as the director of business development for the Beringer Group, assisting family members and investors to build training and consulting revenues for operations in B.C. and Washington State.

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*Funding provided by:*

Bill is a Victoria resident and will be working at the IAF office in Victoria. He takes over the position from Al Helmersen, who was appointed as the executive director earlier this year. With Al set to retire from IAF later this year, the search for a new executive director is in progress.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation is a not for profit organization responsible for administering and delivering federally and provincially funded programs that support innovative projects to benefit the agri-food industry in B.C.

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Photo available on request.

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*Funding provided by:*

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