



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investment Agriculture Foundation Appoints New Executive Director

December 1, 2006 – Victoria, B.C. The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. announced that Peter Donkers will lead the Foundation's team as its new executive director, effective December 8, 2006.

"On behalf of the board, I am pleased to welcome Peter Donkers to Investment Agriculture Foundation," said H.A. (Bert) Miles, IAF chair.

In this role, Mr. Donkers will be accountable for achieving the goals and objectives set by the board of directors and will represent the Foundation in relations with B.C.'s agriculture and food industries, government funding partners, adaptation councils across Canada and other stakeholders. He will also shoulder responsibility for managing the day-to-day operations of the Foundation, including 13 staff in four locations, 25 funding programs and initiatives, and \$61.3 million in assets.

"Peter brings a wealth of senior management experience that will serve the Foundation's needs today and long into the future," added Miles. "He excels in developing strategic partnerships with industry and government, financial management and organizational development."

Mr. Donkers is an educator with more than 20 years of public education experience in private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

Mr. Donkers comes to the Foundation after serving the last three years as executive director and chief operating officer of Campus Canada, a national not-for-profit consortium of colleges and universities committed to increasing access to post-secondary credentials and industry certification by working Canadians and skilled newcomers to Canada.

Prior to joining Campus Canada, Mr. Donkers was a senior manager in the B.C. Ministry of Education from 1992 to 1997. After leaving the ministry, he was a director of the Open Learning Agency, Open School and BC Open University where he held responsibilities in a range of areas, including professional programs, business development and external relations. Mr. Donkers holds a master's degree in education administration from York University in Toronto.

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Mr. Donkers' appointment was made following an extensive executive search that began back in March. Al Helmersen, who put his planned retirement on hold to fill in as executive director earlier this year, will now be able to pursue his retirement plans following a brief transition period. Mr. Donkers is a Victoria resident and will be based at the IAF office in Victoria.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. is a not-for-profit organization that manages and distributes federal and provincial funds in support of innovative projects to benefit the agriculture and food industries in British Columbia. Funding is available to help industry seize new opportunities and deal with emerging issues.

Photo available on request. For more information, contact:

H.A. (Bert) Miles, CMA
Chair
604-576-3413

Sandra Tretick
Communications Coordinator
250-356-1672

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