



**Investment  
Agriculture  
Foundation**  
*of British Columbia*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Coordinator Named for B.C. Agriculture Climate Action Initiative**

**Victoria, British Columbia, June 04, 2008** – The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia (IAF) and the B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC) are pleased to announce the appointment of Emily MacNair as coordinator of a new Climate Action Initiative, which will help industry take strategic action to address the impacts of climate change.

The two-year initiative will focus on the development of an action plan for B.C.'s agriculture and agri-food community. The plan will help industry take strategic action to mitigate the impact of climate change, to adapt in the face of future policy adjustments, and to seize the economic opportunities inherent in these developments. The project will also create linkages between industry and the province's Climate Action office.

"As we celebrate World Environment Day, it's great to see industry leaders like the IAF and BCAC working together to take action on climate change," said Minister of Agriculture and Lands Pat Bell. "Our Agriculture Plan strongly supports projects like this as we look for ways to build an even more sustainable agriculture industry."

Strategic input to the Climate Action Initiative will be provided by the Pan Agriculture Advisory Committee made up of representatives from BCAC, the B.C. Food Processors Association, the Small Scale Food Processors Association, the IAF, invited researchers and the federal and provincial governments.

Allen James, BCAC industry chair of the Advisory Committee, welcomed MacNair's appointment, saying it ensured the project moves forward in a strategic and proactive manner. "Agriculture can and will play an important role in the provincial climate change plan," said James. "The work undertaken in this initiative will position the industry to find the opportunities to contribute to greenhouse gas reduction goals."

That view is echoed by new IAF chair Stuart Wilson. "Ms. MacNair is well qualified to co-ordinate the project," said Wilson. "Emily has a solid understanding of the issues and priorities of B.C.'s agriculture industry, having spent almost four years building relationships with sector groups across the province. The IAF is proud to support industry's leadership in this pivotal initiative."

Working with the Advisory Committee, MacNair's first priority will be to oversee the collection and integration of a body of research and knowledge about the impact of climate change on B.C.'s agriculture and agri-food sectors. In the second year of the initiative, she will lead the crafting of the Climate Change Action Plan.

At the conclusion of the initiative, it is anticipated that industry will have developed the internal expertise and capacity to co-ordinate its own involvement in climate change activities and that

the Advisory Committee will continue to meet on an annual basis to review industry progress against the action plan.

"Agriculture is a very diverse sector. It will be important that we develop a plan that recognizes the unique nature of our industry sectors and regional variations," James commented. "We look forward to working closely with our membership in this very important initiative."

The Climate Action Initiative is a joint undertaking of BCAC and the IAF with funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

The B.C. Agriculture Council provides leadership in representing, promoting and advocating the collective interests of B.C. agriculture producers. To learn more about the B.C. Agriculture Council, visit [www.bcac.bc.ca](http://www.bcac.bc.ca).

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 B.C.'s agriculture and agri-food industries. To learn more about the IAF and the funding programs it administers, visit [www.iafbc.com](http://www.iafbc.com).

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