



Investment Agriculture Foundation Announces New Executive

Victoria, B.C. – July 15, 2009 The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) is pleased to announce the appointment of its new executive. Gay Hahn joins the executive for her first term as secretary, while past secretary Peter Levelton assumes the role of treasurer. Stuart Wilson and Derek Janzen round out the executive.

“IAF supports projects all along the agriculture and agri-food value chain that help industry adapt, innovate and prosper,” says chair Stuart Wilson. “We are committed to ensuring that the interests of the entire agri-food sector are reflected in our decisions. To this end, we recognize the need for broad industry representation in our leadership. Our executive members come from varied backgrounds in primary production, processing and post-farm gate.”

About the executive:

Stuart Wilson, who represents the post-farm gate sector, joined the IAF board in 2006. Wilson assumed the role of **chair** in 2008 and previously served as treasurer. Wilson spent two years in the private sector with Sun Rype Foods, Dairyland and Lipton Puritan and has 32 years of experience with the federal government working for Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). He served as regional director with CFIA and has represented Canadian agriculture on missions to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Wilson has served on the executives of North American organizations aimed at resolving regulatory issues surrounding the movement of agriculture commodities to and from British Columbia. Now semi-retired, Wilson currently works as a financial consultant in Surrey.

Derek Janzen joined the IAF board in 2006, representing the poultry sector, and continues in his capacity as **vice-chair**, a position he has held since 2008. Previously, he served as the secretary. Janzen owns and operates a poultry farm in Aldergrove and a trucking company that transports chickens from farms in the Fraser Valley to processing facilities in Vancouver. Janzen is a director with the B.C. Chicken Marketing Board. He also contributed to the IAF programs through his involvement with the Livestock Waste Tissue and Poultry Biosecurity Initiatives. He and his family reside in Aldergrove.

Peter Levelton joined the IAF board in 2007 as a representative of the greenhouse, floriculture and nursery sectors. Levelton assumes the role of **treasurer** after serving for one year as secretary. Since 1987, Levelton and his wife Jane have owned and operated East Richmond Nurseries, now a leading supplier to landscapers, garden centres and wholesale nurseries throughout B.C. and the Pacific Northwest. Currently a director representing the nursery sector on the Metro Vancouver (GVRD) Agriculture Advisory Committee, Levelton spent six years as president and vice-president of the B.C. Landscape and Nursery Association. He has also served on the executives of the Kinsmen Club of Richmond and the Richmond Youth Soccer Organization.

Gay Hahn joined the IAF board in 2007 representing the post-farm gate sector and now assumes the role of **secretary**. A dairy farmer in her own right, Hahn is president and CEO of Avalon Dairy, a highly successful organic milk product producer in Vancouver. She is a founding member of the BC Food Processors Association, as well as the past chair of the B.C. Dairy Foundation, an active member of the B.C. Organic Association and the current vice-chair of the B.C. Dairy Council. Hahn has also developed one of the largest annual community dairy celebrations, Avalon Dairy Community Days, and won several community service and marketing awards, including the Barichello Award. Serving tirelessly to improve the industry, Hahn is now chair of the National Food Processing Human Resource Council, an initiative to define the human resources and training needs of the agri-food processing sector.

Working closely with the executive and representing IAF's funding partners are **John Berry**, the BC Regional Director with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and **Harvey Sasaki**, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Risk Management and Competitiveness with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

IAF is an independent, industry-led not-for-profit that manages and distributes federal and provincial funds in support of innovative projects to benefit the agriculture and agri-food industries in B.C. To learn more about the Investment Agriculture Foundation and the funding programs it administers, please visit www.iafbc.ca.

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For more information, media may contact:

Andrea McGavin
Communications
Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C.
250-356-1772

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