



Investment Agriculture Foundation Visits the Peace Region

June 17, 2010 Dawson Creek, B.C. – The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) will be in the Peace River region June 22 – 24 for its annual regional tour and board meeting.

“Every year, IAF visits a different area of the province to meet with local members of the agriculture and agri-food community and see the results of its investments first hand,” says Irmi Critcher, IAF’s vice-chair and the owner and operator of a 3,000 acres grains and oilseeds farm near Taylor. “We’re excited to show our support for northern agriculture by visiting the Peace region this year.”

As part of the regional tour, IAF directors will attend the grand opening of the B.C. Grain Producers Association’s (BCGPA) new research facility in Dawson Creek on June 23. IAF has worked with the BCGPA to fund a number of variety trial projects, including a current project to identify cereal, pulse and flax crops well-suited to the region’s growing conditions.

Other Peace region projects that have received IAF funding include sharing variety trial data with western Canadian grains and oilseeds producers, a mass carcass emergency disposal pilot for the Peace River Regional District and a project focused on improving transportation services for perishable goods in the region.

In addition to these regional projects, IAF is funding a variety of province-wide projects and initiatives of relevance to the Peace, such as the B.C. Farm Animal Care Initiative, the Organic Sector Development Program and the B.C. Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative.

In order to promote available funding to the local industry, IAF has partnered with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, the B.C. Agriculture Council, the B.C. Food Processors Association, and the Small Scale Food Processors Association to host an information session on funding opportunities for producers and processors. The session will be held in Dawson Creek at the Best Western Inn on June 24 from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm.

IAF is an industry-led not-for-profit organization that strategically invests federal and provincial funds in support of innovative projects that benefit the agriculture and agri-food industry in B.C. For more information on IAF and the programs it administers, visit www.iafbc.ca

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For more information on regional and B.C.-wide projects, see the attached backgrounder. Media may contact:

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Funding provided by:

Backgrounder: Peace Region and B.C.-wide Projects

Projects funded by IAF in the Peace region include cereal, pulse and flax variety trials, the creation of databases to share variety trial data with producers, a mass carcass emergency disposal pilot, and an analysis of improving food distribution in the region.

IAF is also funding a variety of province-wide projects and initiatives of relevance to the Peace, such as the B.C. Farm Animal Care Initiative, the Organic Sector Development Program and the B.C. Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative.

Funding for these projects is provided by IAF through programs it delivers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

PEACE REGION PROJECTS

B.C. Grain Producers' Association

\$1,324,456

B.C. Peace River Cereal, Pulse and Flax Crop Enhancement Project (A0529)

This project – comprising five sub-projects each focused on a different crop – aims to increase the quality and yield of cereal, flax and pulse crops grown in the Peace region. Researchers are identifying and developing improved cropping choices well-suited to the region, including ethanol feedstock, earlier maturing Hard White Spring Wheat, shorter season flax, pea varieties and high yielding barley lines. The research results will enable Peace farmers to make well-informed decisions and diversify their crops.

Funding for this project is provided through (ACAAF) 's former Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food program.

Western Grains Research Foundation

\$1,000

British Columbia-specific Modifications to the PVT Interactive Website for Western Canada (SP119)

Building on previous work to develop a web-based grain variety database for all of western Canada, the Western Grains Research Foundation designed B.C.-specific modifications to the database. These modifications, such as a new zone map enabling users to view varieties based on eco-climatic regions, provide growers with the necessary information to select the best varieties for different geographical areas across western Canada. Find the database online at www.pvttrials.com.

Funding for this project is provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework.

B.C. Grain Producers' Association

\$8,100

B.C./Alberta Live Interactive Database for Cereal, Flax and Pulse Crops (SP133)

The B.C. Grain Producers' Association, in partnership with the Alberta Barley Council and the Peace River Grain Industry Development Council, adapted current B.C. and Alberta variety performance data into an interactive online database. The database is available to producers in both provinces, for the purpose of comparing varieties against different climatic regions, soil and production zones.

Funding provided by:



Funding for this project is provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework.

Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission \$50,000

Northern Adapted Flax Variety Demonstration Project (W0134 / SK5004CO)

This project is one integral component of the national flax strategy with the objective to develop new flax varieties better adapted to the northern prairie region of Western Canada, which includes the B.C. Peace Region.

Funding for this project was provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP).

Peace Value Added Food & Agriculture Association \$3,922

Agriculture and Food Distribution in the Peace (W0110 AB0397CO)

This project addressed the need to improve transportation services and reduce costs for the shipment of perishable goods in the Peace region. The Peace Value Added Food & Agriculture Association produced a detailed analysis of the critical issues associated with freight consolidation, consolidated purchasing, market expansion and local coordination.

Funding for this project is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's former Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program.

Peace River Regional District \$50,000

Peace River Mass Carcass Disposal Pilot Project (LWTI 040)

The Peace River has the most weight of livestock compared to all other local governments in B.C. Previously, the Peace River Regional District received funding through the Union of B.C. Municipalities' Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Planning Program to complete a an emergency disposal plan for the community. The Mass Carcass Disposal Pilot Project is focused on determining where livestock can be landfilled on site and where off-site landfilling is required, locating off-site landfilling sites and obtaining permits for those sites.

Funding for this project is provided through the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative.

B.C.-WIDE PROJECTS

Certified Organic Associations of B.C. \$900,000

Organic Sector Development Strategic Initiative (S0011)

This strategic initiative supports five goals: increasing the capacity of the organics sector, building confidence in certified organic systems and products, promoting environmental stewardship, advancing organic research and innovation, and strengthening infrastructure. COABC is now accepting applications for funding for projects that will assist the organic sector's development.

Funding provided by:



Funding for this project is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP).

B.C. Agriculture Council

\$519,351

B.C. Farm Animal Care Initiative (S0007)

This project included the launch of the B.C. Farm Animal Care Council, following the creation of the strategic plan also funded by IAF. This strategic initiative is focused on public communications, public and producer education and networking with other Farm Animal Care councils in Canada.

Funding for this project is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's former Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program.

B.C. Agriculture Council

\$289,500

B.C. Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative (1-CAIC)

The B.C. Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative is a joint undertaking of IAF and the B.C. Agriculture Council. The initiative was developed to enable a pan-agricultural approach to identifying and analyzing the impacts of climate change and climate action policy on the agriculture and agri-food sectors.

Funding for this project is provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework.

Funding provided by:

Canada

