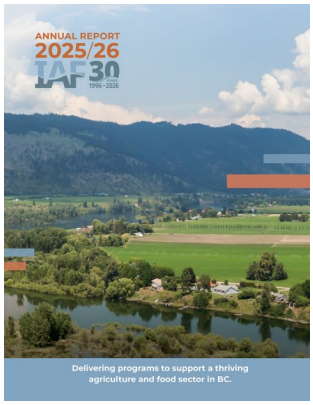
IAF News

For Immediate Release

IAF Holds 30th Annual General Meeting



September 28, 2026 – Victoria, BC: The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) held their 30th Annual General Meeting via ZOOM on September 23, 2026, where the Board of Directors shared highlights of IAF's activities and financial statements for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

Highlights included:

- 35 programs delivered
- 3,900+ applications received
- $54.7M committed to projects
- Celebration of IAF's 30th year
- And more

View IAF's 2025/26 Annual Report

Board of Directors Election

Three seats for Board of Directors were voted on by delegates of IAF's Member organizations, two Primary Agriculture seats and one Value-Added Food & Beverage Processing seat. Five eligible candidates were brought forward on the ballot.

Sacha Bentall and Travis Hopcott were elected by majority for the Primary Agriculture seats. James Pratt was acclaimed to the Value-Added Food & Beverage Processing seat.

"IAF has always benefited from the knowledge and perspectives of leaders from across BC's agriculture and food sector," said Jack Dewit, outgoing Chair, IAF Board of Directors. "I'm pleased to welcome Sacha, Travis and James to the Board of Directors. I know their contributions will help guide IAF as it builds on 30 years of supporting agriculture and food in British Columbia."

Joining the IAF Board of Directors

Sacha Bentall, Primary Agriculture

Sacha brings nearly 20 years of experience building and operating a family farm business in BC's East Kootenay region. Through Cutter Ranch, Sacha and their family raise and market pork, beef and lamb directly to local consumers, grocery stores and processors, with a focus on quality and environmental responsibility.

Sacha has extensive practical experience in farm business management, finance and agricultural operations. They have also volunteered for many years in a key financial role with a local livestock organization, helping manage and allocate funding for farm and ranch infrastructure projects throughout the East Kootenays.

Sacha brings a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing BC farm businesses and a commitment to giving back to the agriculture sector.

Travis Hopcott, Primary Agriculture

Travis Hopcott is Vice-President and co-owner of Hopcott Farms in Pitt Meadows, bringing more than 20 years of experience across primary agriculture, food processing, business development and community leadership.

At Hopcott Farms, Travis oversees cranberry operations and contributes to strategic planning and partnerships across the family business's livestock, abattoir, retail and hospitality operations. His experience includes vertical integration, innovation and building stronger connections between producers and consumers. He also participates in agricultural advisory committees and industry discussions focused on the sustainability and competitiveness of BC agriculture.

In 2023, Travis and his siblings were recognized as Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers, reflecting their commitment to innovation, collaboration and the long-term success of agriculture.

James Pratt, Value-added Food & Beverage Processing

James brings more than 35 years of experience in food processing, agri-tech and finance. Currently CEO of a nutraceutical manufacturing company, James has extensive experience in strategic decision-making, operations, finance, governance, marketing and risk management.

James represented the food processing sector on the Premier's Task Force on Agriculture and Food Economy and have held numerous industry and not-for-profit directorships, including with the Canadian Food Innovation Network, BC Food and Beverage Association, Greater Vancouver Food Bank, Food Innovation Centre of BC and Food Processors of Canada.

James previously served six years on the IAF Board of Directors.

IAF recognizes outgoing Board Chair and Directors

After 12 years of service on IAF's Board of Directors, including 6 years as Chair, Jack Dewit is concluding his term with the organization.

During his time on the Board, Jack helped guide IAF through a period of significant growth and change. His leadership supported the evolution of IAF's governance, strengthened relationships across the agriculture and food sector, and helped position the organization to take on an expanding role in delivering programs and services for British Columbia.

"Jack has had a lasting impact on IAF," said TJ Schur, CEO of IAF. "Over 12 years, he has brought thoughtful leadership, a strong understanding of the sector and a clear commitment to IAF's success. His guidance has been particularly valuable as the organization has grown and evolved, and I am incredibly grateful for his support of our Board, our team and the work we do on behalf of BC's agriculture and food sector."

Irmi Critcher and David Eto have also completed their terms on the IAF Board of Directors. Irmi steps away after 12 years representing Primary Agriculture and bringing an important voice for producers in BC's Peace region. David has sat on the Board for six years representing Value Added Food & Beverage.

IAF thanks Jack, Irmi and David for their years of dedicated service and contributions to the organization.

About IAF

IAF is a non-profit organization that delivers programs to support a thriving agriculture and food sector in British Columbia. With more than 30 years of experience, IAF is recognized as the leading provider of high-quality and cost-effective program delivery services for the agriculture and food sector in BC; having delivered more than $370 million to industry on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

www.iafbc.ca

For more information, media may contact:

Kelsi Stiles

IAF Communications

communications@iafbc.ca