



## Strategic Partnership Initiative – Aboriginal Agriculture Initiative Letter of Intent Submission



You are invited to consider applying to the Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPI) – Aboriginal Agriculture Initiative (AAI) pilot program.

As background, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) are partnering through the Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPI), which stems from the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development, to develop Aboriginal agriculture initiatives. Fourteen federal departments and agencies are signatories to the SPI. Five priority resource sectors are identified - agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining and energy.

The SPI-AAI objective is to increase economic development opportunities for Aboriginal Canadians within the agriculture and agri-product sector. This is intended to lead to greater participation by Aboriginal Peoples in the Canadian economy through: planned and integrated economic development activities; the identification of economic and business opportunities; capacity building; investment in economic infrastructure; the creation and expansion of viable businesses; and investments and partnerships in economic and resource opportunities.

The SPI-AAI in British Columbia (BC) is being lead by AAFC in collaboration with other federal departments, the provincial government and Aboriginal representatives through a Regional Implementation Team. The Team will review and recommend Letters of Intent for full applications. They will also review and recommend applications for funding within the funding limitations and program criteria of the SPI-AAI.

### **Process:**

Read through the attached Terms and Conditions to see if you are an eligible recipient (Section 4.0) and if you have a project idea that fits the Priority Areas (Section 2.0) and Program Principles (Section 3.0).

The process for applying for funding is to submit a Letter of Intent following the attached Letter of Intent Guidelines. Should your Letter of Intent result in a request for a full application, you will be informed by August 31, 2011. Full applications, if requested, are to be received by September 30, 2011.

**Submission Deadline:** Friday, July 29, 2011 by 12:00 p.m. (PST).

Please email your completed Letter of Intent, addressed to the BC Regional Implementation Team, to: [Marie@absn.ca](mailto:Marie@absn.ca)

Or fax the completed Letter of Intent, addressed to the BC Regional Implementation Team, to: 1-250-828-9972