

News Release – February 2014

Canadian Foundations Investing in Sustainable Food and Agriculture

The InvestEco Sustainable Food Fund completed a final close in January 2014, with a number of leading Canadian foundations as investors, demonstrating the growing move in the Canadian foundation community towards "impact investments" that can provide both a financial as well as an environmental or social return. Investors in the Sustainable Food Fund included leading foundations such as The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, The Harbinger Foundation, the Inspirit Foundation, The Metcalf Foundation and Tides Canada Foundation. "The Canadian foundation community is beginning to more actively seek and support investments that drive social and environmental impact while providing financial returns," says Stephen Huddart, president and CEO of The J.W. McConnell Foundation. "This is something that was called for by the Social Finance Task Force in 2010. Now it is becoming part of the mainstream, through the leadership of firms like Investeco." Sandy Houston from the Metcalf Foundation explained the value of a focus on sustainable food and agriculture: "At Metcalf we have been focused on building more balanced, healthy and resilient food systems through our granting program. Investing in companies that can promote and expand these benefits allows us to increase our impact while securing a financial return." The Investeco Sustainable Food Fund will invest in expansion-stage companies that are promoting sustainable solutions in food and agriculture. The Fund will be focused primarily on investing in Canadian-based companies. InvestEco's past investments in this sector include Organic Meadow and Rowe Farms. The Investeco Sustainable Food Fund is a GIIRS rated fund, and Investeco is a registered B Corp.