



## Regional Agricultural Adaptation Strategies Pilot Project Analysis

Research & Planning Analyst  
Request for Expressions of Interest

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### ***Timeline***

August 2012 to March 2013

### ***Project description***

The Regional Agricultural Adaptation Strategies pilot project will build on the recently completed *BC Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation Risk and Opportunity Assessment* by supporting development of regional strategies for addressing identified impacts. The ability of agricultural producers to adapt to changes in climate is linked to physical resources and decision-making processes that go beyond the individual farm. For example, some of the most significant issues for future food production in BC include approaches to: water management (water supply and storage, drainage and ditching), emergency planning, land use and zoning, economic development and regional infrastructure.

This new pilot project will develop Regional Agricultural Adaptation Strategies in 3 communities, between now and March 2013. Regional Agricultural Adaptation Strategies will build knowledge and facilitate dialogue while embedding considerations of climate change impacts to agriculture into existing decision-making tools such as: Agriculture Area Plans, Official Community Plans, local by-laws and policies and the planning and decision-making tools of agricultural organizations. The project will be tailored to fit local needs and will bring partners together to create a decision-making environment that strengthens agriculture's resilience in a changing climate.

The work of the Research & Planning Analyst will contribute to the development of solutions to support agricultural climate change adaptation in British Columbia.

### ***Deliverables***

- Work collaboratively as a core member of the project team
- Conduct background research for the development of engagement tools and regional agricultural adaptation strategies, which may include:
  - Review of existing relevant local government plans, by-laws and policies
  - Consulting with local government staff and/or agriculture organizations to support development of materials
  - Consulting with provincial and federal government agricultural specialists to fill in gaps and add broader context
- Review adaptation options and approaches from BC and other jurisdictions



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- Compile, analyze and distil relevant information to contribute to the development of engagement materials and regional strategy documents
  - May include development of GIS and/or other visual materials
- Provide facilitation support for workshops in pilot communities
- Conduct analysis and summarization of data collected through regional engagement process
- Support the Adaptation Specialist with development of documents

## **Summary of Preferred Background Expertise and Experience**

- Strong research skills, including capacity to gather, prioritize, review and clearly summarize data and information from a range of sources, both written and technical sources, and field sources (interviews etc)
- Strong interpersonal and facilitation skills that enable positive and productive interaction with a broad range of stakeholders, particularly government and agricultural producers
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively, and in a flexible work environment
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including the ability to translate and communicate information for multiple audiences
- Knowledge of the local government context in BC, the BC agriculture sector, and/or climate change adaptation

### Preferred Assets:

- Experience representing information visually, for example through the use of geographic information systems and/or graphic design
- Experience in community planning and/or working with local governments and knowledge of the legal and procedural context of local government operations
- Knowledge and experience of climate change adaptation, use of scenarios, and/or climate science and modelling
- Experience working collaboratively and/or on multi-stakeholder projects
- Experience working with the agricultural sector
- Formal education in social science, environmental studies, geography, resource management, agricultural systems or a related field (eg. interdisciplinary studies) with experience applying social science research methods; or relevant experience in social science research methods, facilitation, agriculture and/or planning

## ***Position & organizational context***

The Research & Planning Analyst contract will be with the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

For day-to-day direction/support, the Research & Planning Analyst will report to, and work collaboratively with, both the Project Manager and Adaptation Specialist. The contractor will also require regular contact with a number of project partners, particularly: local government staff, provincial government staff and agricultural organizations/producers.



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## *Position location/travel expectations*

It is preferred that the Research & Planning Analyst is located in either Victoria or the Lower Mainland. Alternate locations within BC may be considered. Travel within BC will be a requirement of the contract.

## **Contract Amount**

\$38,500 - \$45,000 (dependant on contractor qualifications and availability)

Note: Additional funding will be provided for travel expenses depending on work plan requirements.

## **Key project partners**

*BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative/BC Agriculture Council*

The project reflects the priority activities identified in the recently completed *BC Agriculture Climate Change Action Plan*. The Action Plan is the result of two years of background work by the BC Agriculture Council's Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative. Please see [www.bcagclimateaction.ca](http://www.bcagclimateaction.ca) for more information about the Initiative and the Action Plan.

## *BC Ministry of Agriculture*

The Government of British Columbia's climate change adaptation strategy can be accessed at the following link:

[http://www.livesmartbc.ca/attachments/Adaptation\\_Strategy.pdf](http://www.livesmartbc.ca/attachments/Adaptation_Strategy.pdf)

The strategy has three elements:

- 1) Build a strong foundation of knowledge (including planning tools and engaging climate science)
- 2) Make adaptation part of Government's policies, legislation, regulations and decision-making
- 3) Assess risks and implement priority adaptation actions in sectors sensitive to climate change (including agriculture)

## *Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions*

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) is a primary project sponsor. The mission of PICS is: *to partner with governments, the private sector, other researchers and civil society, in order to undertake research on, monitor, and assess the potential impacts of climate change and to assess, develop and promote viable mitigation and adaptation options to better inform climate change policies and actions*. For more information on PICS, please visit: [www.pics.uvic.ca/](http://www.pics.uvic.ca/)

## **Instructions for application (Expression of Interest)**

Please provide your cover letter, resume, and 2 professional references.

This should be submitted as one complete electronic application, in PDF format to:

Subject line: Attention Regional Strategies Analyst

Email address: [Emily@BCAgClimateAction.ca](mailto:Emily@BCAgClimateAction.ca)



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Enquiries regarding this posting should also be directed to the above email address.  
Applications must be received no later than July 24<sup>th</sup> 2012, 4pm Pacific Standard Time.