

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 21, 2011**

**Canadian Organic Growers Welcomes New Executive Director**

OTTAWA: On November 17, the Canadian Organic Growers (COG) welcomed Beth McMahon as its new national Executive Director.

Out-going COG Executive Director, Laura Telford, recently accepted a position as Business Development Specialist (Organics) in the Food Commercialization & Marketing Knowledge Centre of the Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives.

“During my eight years at COG, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to have a front row seat as the Canadian organic sector evolved from a small but passionate alternative food movement to a global food system leader with international standards, federal regulation and equivalency agreements with major trading partners. I’m thrilled to be able to leave the organization in great hands and to be staying on in the organic sector in a new capacity.”

Beth has many years involvement with the Canadian Organic Growers, first joining the Canadian Organic Grower magazine editorial committee in 2003, and later working closely with the COG staff as Executive Director of ACORN (Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network), from 2004 to the present day.

With skills in non-profit organizational development and fundraising, the Board of Directors is confident Beth will continue to build on our past successes and further strengthen the Canadian Organic Growers capacity to fulfill its mandate.

“I’m very committed to the work and leadership that COG brings to Canadian organic growers and consumers,” said McMahon. “I look forward to bringing my own unique skills and perspective to the organization and championing the organic movement.”

Over the next several months, Beth will begin the process of moving from Sackville, NB, to the National Capital Region. Beth can best be reached by email during this transition phase, at [beth@cog.ca](mailto:beth@cog.ca).

## **About Canadian Organic Growers**

Canadian Organic Growers (COG) is Canada's oldest national charitable organization, founded in 1975. COG is connected to the regions through eleven regional Chapters, four affiliated organizations, and to the international organic community through membership in the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM).

COG's membership is diverse and includes farmers, gardeners, processors, retailers, educators, policy-makers, and consumers.

### **Mission**

To lead local and national communities towards sustainable organic stewardship of land, food and fibre while respecting nature, upholding social justice and protecting natural resources.

Please note that the national office has moved:

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Visit our website at [www.cog.ca/](http://www.cog.ca/)