

Request for Proposal (RFP): 01B68-15-0183

FOR THE PROVISION OF

**External members for Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada's Departmental
Evaluation Committee**

FOR

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

December 23rd, 2015

Contracting Authority:

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

AAFC requires a consultant for the participation as an external member on AAFC's Departmental Evaluation Committee (DEC) which involves comprehensively reviewing all evaluation documentation and providing advice and recommendations to AAFC's DEC and Deputy Minister.

1.1 SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Materials and committee discussions may be classified at the secret security level. Bidders must hold valid secret security clearance at the time of the bid closing, and must possess this clearance for the duration of the contract.

2.0 INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 In the Request for proposal "RFP", "Canada", "Crown", "Her Majesty", "the Government" or "Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada" or "AAFC" means Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food;
- 2.2 "Contract" or "Resulting Contract" means the written agreement between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and a contractor, comprising the General Conditions (set out in Appendix A of this RFP) and any supplemental general conditions specified in this RFP and every other document specified or referred to in any of them as forming part of the Contract, all as amended by agreement of the Parties from time to time;
- 2.3 "Contracting Authority or authorized representative" means the AAFC official, identified in Part 3, Article 5.0 of this RFP, responsible for the management of the Contract. Any changes to the Contract must be authorized in writing by the Contracting Authority. The Contractor is not to perform Work in excess of or outside the scope of the Contract based on verbal or written requests or instructions from any government personnel other than the aforementioned AAFC official;
- 2.4 "Contractor", means the person or entity whose name appears on the signature page of the Contract and who is to supply goods or services to Canada under the Contract;
- 2.5 "Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food or anyone authorized to act on his/her behalf;
- 2.6 "Project Authority or authorized representative" means the AAFC official, identified in Part 3, Article 6.0 of this RFP, responsible for all matters concerning a) the technical content of the Work under the Contract; b) any proposed changes to the scope of the Work, but any resulting change can only be confirmed by a Contract amendment issued by the Contracting Authority; c) inspection and acceptance of all Work performed as detailed in the Statement of Work, and; review and inspection of all invoices submitted;
- 2.7 "Proposal" means an offer, submitted in response to a request from a Contracting Authority, that constitutes a solution to the problem, requirement or objective in the request;

- 2.8. “Bidder” means a person or entity submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP;
- 2.9 “Work” means the whole of the activities, services, materials, equipment, software, matters and things required to be done, delivered or performed by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this RFP.

PART 1: BIDDER INSTRUCTIONS, INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

1.0 CONTRACTUAL CAPACITY

- 1.1 The Bidder must have the legal capacity to enter into legally binding contracts. If the Bidder is a sole proprietorship, a partnership or a corporate body, the Bidder shall provide a statement indicating the laws under which it is registered or incorporated together with the registered or corporate name and place of business and the country where the controlling interest/ownership of the organization is located as per Appendix E of this RFP.

2.0 ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 2.1 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will only consider Proposals which accept Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's terms and conditions.
- 2.2 The General Conditions attached in Appendix A and those set out in Part 3 of this RFP shall form part of any Resulting Contract.

3.0 INCURRING COST

- 3.1 The cost to prepare the Proposal will not be reimbursed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- 3.2 No cost incurred before receipt of a signed Contract or specified written authorization from the Contracting Authority can be charged to any Resulting Contract.

4.0 ENQUIRIES - SOLICITATION STAGE

- 4.1 All enquiries or issues concerning this solicitation must be submitted in writing to the Contracting Authority named on the cover page of the RFP. It is the responsibility of the Bidder to obtain clarification of the requirements contained herein, if necessary prior to submitting a proposal.
- 4.2 Enquiries and issues must be received by the Contracting Authority no later than **five (5)** calendar days prior to the solicitation closing date specified herein to allow sufficient time to provide a response. Enquiries or issues received after that time may not be able to be answered prior to the solicitation closing date.
- 4.3 To ensure consistency and quality of information provided to Bidders, the Contracting Authority will provide, simultaneously to all Bidders any information with respect to **significant** enquiries received and the replies to such enquiries without revealing the sources of the enquiries.
- 4.4 All enquiries and other communications with government officials throughout the solicitation period are to be directed **ONLY** to the Contracting Authority named below. Noncompliance with this condition during the proposal solicitation period may (for that reason alone) result in disqualification of a Proposal.
- 4.5 Meetings will not be held with individual bidders prior to the closing date/time of this RFP, unless otherwise specified.

- 4.6 Bidders shall not place any conditions or make any assumptions that attempt to limit or otherwise modify the scope of Work pursuant to the Statement of Work (Appendix B)

5.0 RIGHTS OF CANADA

- 5.1 Canada reserves the right to:
1. Accept any Proposal in whole or in part, without prior negotiation;
 2. Reject any or all Proposals received in response to this RFP;
 3. Cancel and/or re-issue this RFP at any time;
 4. Ask the Bidder to substantiate any claim made in the Proposal;
 5. Enter into negotiations with one or more Bidders on any or all aspects of their Proposals;
 6. Award one or more Contracts;
 7. Retain all Proposals submitted in response to this RFP.

6.0 SUBSTANTIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RATES

- 6.1 In Canada's experience, bidders will from time to time propose prices at the time of bidding that they later refuse to honour, on the basis that these prices do not allow them to recover their own costs and/or make a profit. When evaluating the prices for professional services bid, Canada may, but will have no obligation to, require price support for any prices proposed. Examples of price support that Canada would consider satisfactory include:

1. documentation (such as billing records) that shows that the Bidder has recently provided and invoiced another customer (with whom the Bidder deals at arm's length) for services similar to the services that would be provided under a resulting contract, and the fees charged are equal to or less than the price offered to Canada (to protect the privacy of the customer, the Bidder may black out the customer's name and personal information on the invoice submitted to Canada);
2. a signed contract between the Bidder and an individual qualified (based on the qualifications described in this bid solicitation) to provide services under a resulting contract where the amount payable under that contract by the Bidder to the resource is equal to or less than the price bid;
3. a signed contract with a subcontractor who will perform the work under any resulting contract, which provides that the required services will be provided at a price that is equal to or less than the price bid; or
4. details regarding the salary paid to and benefits provided to the individuals employed by the Bidder to provide services, where the amount of compensation, when converted to a per diem or hourly rate (as applicable), is equal to or less than the rate bid for that resource category.

Once Canada requests substantiation of the prices bid, it is the sole responsibility of the Bidder to submit information (either the information described in the examples above, or other information that demonstrates that it will be able to recover its own costs based on the prices it has proposed) that will allow Canada to determine whether it can rely, with confidence, on the Bidder's ability to provide the required services at the prices bid, while, at a minimum, recovering its own costs. Where Canada determines that the information provided by the Bidder does not demonstrate the Bidder's ability to recover

its own costs in providing the prices bid, Canada may, at their sole discretion declare the bid non-compliant.

7.0 MANDATORY CLAUSES

7.1 Where the words “**must**”, “**shall**” or “**will**” appear in this RFP, the clause is to be considered as a mandatory requirement.

8.0 DEBRIEFING

8.1 After contract award, bidders may request a debriefing on the results of the bid solicitation process. Bidders should make the request to the Contracting Authority within the timeframe specified in the contract award notice. The debriefing may be in writing, by telephone or in person at the discretion of the Contracting Authority.

9.0 OFFICE OF THE PROCUREMENT OMBUDSMAN

If you have issues or concerns regarding the solicitation, you have the option of raising them with the department or with the Office of the Procurement Ombudsman (OPO). The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman was established by the Government of Canada to provide an independent avenue for suppliers to raise complaints regarding the award of contracts under \$25,000 for goods and under \$100,000 for services. You have the option of raising issues or concerns regarding the solicitation, or the award resulting from it, with the OPO by contacting them by telephone at 1-866-734-5169 or by e-mail at boa.opo@boa.opo.gc.ca. You can also obtain more information on the OPO services available to you at their website at www.opo-boa.gc.ca.

PART 2: PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS & EVALUATION PROCEDURES

1.0 APPLICABLE LAWS

- 1.1 The Contract shall be interpreted and governed, and the relations between the parties, determined by the laws in force in the Province of **Ontario**.
- 1.2 In their bid submission, bidders may, at their discretion, substitute the applicable laws of a Canadian province or territory of their choice without affecting the validity of their proposal, by deleting the Canadian province specified in the previous paragraph and inserting the Canadian province or territory of their choice. If no change is made, the bidder acknowledges the applicable law specified is acceptable to the Bidder.

2.0 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Proposals must be submitted in hard copy as described in Article 3.0.

Due to the nature of this RFP electronic transmission of proposal by such means as electronic mail or facsimile to the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food is not considered to be practical and therefore will not be accepted.

- 2.2 The proposal **MUST** be delivered to and received by the Contracting Authority named on the cover page of the RFP no later than **Friday, January 22nd, 2016 AT 12:00 PM EST.** The outside of the envelope containing the proposal should include the RFP number found on the cover page of the RFP.
- 2.4 The onus for submitting proposals on time at the specified location rests with the Bidder. It is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure correct delivery of their proposal to the Contracting Authority.
- 2.5 The Bidders are advised that, due to security measures for building visitors, arrangements should be made in advance with the Contracting Authority for any planned in-person delivery of a proposal. Any planned **in-person delivery of proposal must be between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday** except on Government holidays and weekends. Failure to do so may result in late receipt of a proposal.
- 2.6 Proposals submitted in response to this RFP will not be returned.

3.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 The proposal **must** be structured in **THREE SEPARATELY BOUND parts** as indicated below:

Section 1	Technical Proposal (with no reference to price)	1 original hard copy and 3 duplicate hard copies
Section 2	Financial Proposal	1 original hard copy and 1 duplicate hard copy
Section 3	Certifications	1 original hard copy and 1 duplicate hard copy

3.2 The Bidder may **submit a proposal in either official language.**

3.3 Each copy of the proposal is to include the Bidder's legal entity name, the name of the Bidder's contact, address, telephone number, facsimile number, email address and the RFP Number.

4.0 PREPARATION OF TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (Section 1)

4.1 In the Technical Proposal, the Bidder should demonstrate its understanding of the requirements of the **Statement of Work Appendix "B"**, as well as demonstrate how the Bidder will meet the requirements of the **Evaluation Procedures and Criteria Appendix "D"**.

4.2 Security Requirements

Materials and committee discussions may be classified at the secret security level. Bidders must hold valid secret security clearance at the time of the bid closing, and must possess this clearance for the duration of the contract.

5.0 PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL PROPOSAL (Section 2)

In the Financial Proposal, the Bidder shall provide a *firm all-inclusive per diem rate* to provide the services requested in accordance with the Statement of Work **Appendix B**.

The requirements of the Financial Proposal are detailed in Appendix D, Evaluations Procedures and Criteria.

Prices shall not appear in any area of the proposal except in the Financial Proposal.

6.0 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to be awarded a contract, the certifications attached in **Appendix "E"** will be required. The certifications should be submitted with the proposal. Canada may declare a bid non-responsive if the certifications are not submitted or completed as required. Where Canada intends to reject a proposal pursuant to this paragraph, the Contracting Authority will so inform the Bidder and provide the Bidder with a time frame within which to meet the requirement. Failure to comply with the request of the Contracting Authority and meet the requirement within that time frame period will render the proposal non-responsive.

Compliance with the certifications the Bidder provides to Canada is subject to verification by Canada. The Contracting Authority shall have the right to ask for additional information to verify that the Bidder is compliant with the applicable certifications before and after award of a contract. Any certification made by the Bidder that is determined to be untrue, whether made knowingly or unknowingly, or any failure to comply with the certifications or comply with the request of the Contracting Authority for additional information, will render the bid non-responsive.

7.0 EVALUATION PROCEDURES

- 7.1 Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the Evaluation Procedures and Criteria specified in **Appendix D**. Proposals received will be compared separately against the evaluation criteria identified therein for the total requirement described in this RFP and in conjunction with the accompanying Statement of Work (**Appendix B**).
- 7.2 An evaluation team composed of representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will evaluate the Proposals on behalf of Canada.
- 7.3 The evaluation team reserves the right, but is not obligated, to perform any of the following tasks:
- a) seek clarification or verification from bidders regarding any or all information provided by them with respect to the bid solicitation;
 - b) contact any or all references supplied by bidders to verify and validate any information submitted by them;
 - c) request, before award of any contract, specific information with respect to bidders' legal status;
 - d) verify any information provided by bidders through independent research, use of any government resources or by contacting third parties;
 - e) interview, at the sole costs of bidders, any bidder and/or any or all of the resources proposed by bidders to fulfill the requirement of the bid solicitation.

8.0 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL AMENDMENT(S)

- 8.1 Any modifications to this RFP will be made through an amendment which will be posted publically on buyandsell.gc.ca.

PART 3: RESULTING CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Upon a Contract being awarded pursuant to RFP # 01B68-15-0183, the following Terms and Conditions shall form part of the Resulting Contract:

1.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.1 The General Conditions attached in **Appendix A** shall form part of any Resulting Contract.

2.0 REQUIREMENT

2.1 The contractor will provide the services identified in Appendix B, Statement of Work.

2.2 The Contractor shall maintain, for the duration of the Contract, a designated single point of contact, hereafter referred to as a Contractor Representative, dedicated to managing the Contract.

3.0 SECURITY REQUIREMENT

Materials and committee discussions may be classified at the secret security level. Bidders must hold valid secret security clearance at the time of the bid closing, and must possess this clearance for the duration of the contract.

SECURITY REQUIREMENT FOR CANADIAN SUPPLIER: PWGSC FILE COMMON-PS-SRCL#19

1. The Contractor/Offeror must, at all times during the performance of the Contract/Standing Offer/Supply Arrangement, hold a valid Facility Security Clearance at the level of **SECRET**, issued by the Canadian Industrial Security Directorate (CISD), Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC).
2. The Contractor/Offeror personnel requiring access to PROTECTED/CLASSIFIED information, assets or sensitive work site(s) must EACH hold a valid personnel security screening at the level of **RELIABILITY STATUS, CONFIDENTIAL** or **SECRET** as required, granted or approved by CISD/PWGSC.
3. The Contractor/Offeror MUST NOT remove any PROTECTED/CLASSIFIED information from the identified work site(s), and the Contractor/Offeror must ensure that its personnel are made aware of and comply with this restriction.
4. Subcontracts which contain security requirements are NOT to be awarded without the prior written permission of CISD/PWGSC.
5. The Contractor/Offeror must comply with the provisions of the:
 - a. Security Requirements Check List and security guide (if applicable), attached at Appendix F;
 - b. *Industrial Security Manual* (Latest Edition).

4.0 CONTRACT PERIOD

4.1 The Contract shall be from the date of contract award to March 31st, 2017.

4.2 The Contractor grants to Canada the irrevocable option to extend the duration of the Contract by up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods under the same terms and conditions.

4.2.1 Canada may exercise this option at any time by sending a notice to the Contractor prior to the Contract expiry date.

4.2.2 The Contractor agrees that, during the extended period of the Contract resulting from Canada's exercise of its option, the cost will be in accordance with the provisions in Appendix C of the Contract.

4.2.3 The option may only be exercised by the Contracting Authority and will be evidenced for administration purposes only, through a written Contract amendment.

4.3 CONTRACT ON AN "AS AND WHEN REQUESTED" BASIS

4.3.1 In this clause,

- a. "Maximum Contract Value" means the amount specified in the Limitation of Expenditure - clause set out in Article 13.2 of Part 3 and Article 3.0 of Appendix C herein.
- b. "Minimum Contract Value" means 5 percent of the Maximum Contract Value.

4.3.2 Under the terms of the Contract, the Contractor shall provide to Canada the Work described in the Contract "as and when requested" by Canada during the period of the Contract. Canada's obligation under the Contract is to request Work whose value is no less than the Minimum Contract Value or, at Canada's option, to pay the Contractor in accordance with Appendix C, Basis of Payment, of these Terms and Conditions at the end of the Contract's term. In consideration of such obligation, the Contractor agrees to stand in readiness throughout the Contract period to perform the Work described in the Contract. Canada's maximum liability for Work performed under the Contract shall not exceed the Maximum Contract Value, unless an increase is authorized in writing by the Minister.

4.3.3 In the event that Canada does not request Work in the amount of the Minimum Contract Value during the period of the Contract, Canada shall pay the Contractor the difference between the Minimum Contract Value and the cost of the Work requested.

4.3.4 Canada shall have no obligation to the Contractor under this clause in the event that the Minister terminates the Contract in whole or in part for default.

5.0 CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

5.1 The Contracting Authority is:

Parker Kennedy

Senior Contracting Advisor
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada
Professional Services Contracting Unit,
1285 Baseline Road, T5-2-334
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5
613-773-0937
613-773-0966
Parker.kennedy@agr.gc.ca

- 5.2 The Contracting Authority (or authorized representative) is responsible for the management of the Contract. Any changes to the Contract must be authorized in writing by the Contracting Authority. The Contractor is not to perform Work in excess of or outside the scope of the Contract based on verbal or written requests or instructions from any government personnel other than the aforementioned officer.

6.0 PROJECT AUTHORITY

- 6.1 The Project Authority for the Contract is:

The contact information for the Project Authority will be provided at time of contract award.

- 6.2 The Project Authority, or authorized representative, is responsible for:

1. All matters concerning the technical content of the Work under the Contract;
2. Defining any proposed changes to the scope of the Work, but any resulting change can only be confirmed by a Contract amendment issued by the Contracting Authority;
3. Inspection and acceptance of all Work performed as detailed in the Statement of Work and;
4. Review and approve all invoices submitted.

7.0 CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE

- 7.1 The Contractor Representative for the Contract is:

The contact information for the Contractor Representative will be provided at time of contract award.

- 7.2 The duties and responsibilities of the Contractor Representative shall include the following:

1. Responsible for the overall management of the Contract;
2. Ensure that the Contract is administered in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract;
3. Act as a single point of contact to resolve any contractual disputes that may arise. The Contract Representative must have direct access to the level of management within the Contractor's organization vested with the decision-making authority for contractual matters;

4. Shall be established as the only recognized individual from the Contractor's organization to speak on behalf of the Contractor for purposes of Contract management;
5. Monitor all resources that are providing services/deliverables in accordance with the Contract;
6. Liaise with the Project Authority on all matters concerning technical aspects of the Work and performance of its resources; and
7. Manage the transition of any potential resource(s) turnover during the period of the Work.

8.0 PRIORITY OF DOCUMENTS

8.1 The documents specified below form part of and are incorporated into the Contract. If there is a discrepancy between the wordings of any documents which appear on the list, the wording of the document which first appears on the list shall prevail over the wording of any document which subsequently appears on the list:

1. These Terms and Conditions;
2. The Statement of Work, Appendix B hereof;
3. The General Conditions, Appendix A hereof;
4. Basis of Payment, Appendix C hereof;
5. Certification Requirements, Appendix E
6. Request for Proposal number **01B68-15-0183**;
7. Contractor's Proposal dated *(to be inserted at contract award)*.

9.0 BASIS FOR CANADA'S OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

In this section of the RFP,

- 9.1 "Material" means anything that is created or developed by the Contractor as part of the Work under the Contract, and in which copyright subsists, but does not include computer programs and related software documentation.
- 9.2 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has determined that any intellectual property arising from the performance of the Work under the Contract will vest in Canada, on the following grounds:

Pursuant to 6.5 of the Treasury Board Policy on Title to Intellectual Property Arising under Crown Procurement Contracts, Canada has opted to own the intellectual property rights in any Material subject to copyright that is created or developed as part of the Work, with the exception of computer software or any documentation pertaining to such software.

10.0 REPLACEMENT OF PERSONNEL

- 10.1. The Contractor will provide the services of the personnel named in the Contractor's Proposal to perform the Work, unless the Contractor is unable to do so for reasons which are beyond its control.
- 10.2 Should the Contractor at any time be unable to provide their services, the Contractor will contact the Project Authority immediately. In such case, the Contractor is responsible to

provide replacement Contractor or personnel who shall be of similar skills and experience as stated in **the Appendix D, Evaluation Procedures and Criteria**.

- 10.3 The Contractor shall propose replacement personnel for the Project Authorities review within 5 working days (resume and references). The Contractor shall submit, in writing, to the Project Authority the reasons for the removal of personnel from the Work; the name of the proposed replacement person(s); and the qualifications and experience of the proposed replacement person(s). The Project Authority reserves the right to interview any personnel proposed to be assigned to the Work.
- 10.4 Personnel assigned pursuant to the requirements will be capable of performing the Work at a reasonable level of competence. Should any assigned personnel be deemed unsuitable by the Project Authority the Contractor shall provide an immediate replacement of suitable ability that is acceptable to the Project Authority.
- 10.5 The Contractor shall supply competent back-up personnel so that in the event of unforeseen sickness, accident, or any cause which renders a specific individual unavailable, such individuals can be replaced within five (5) working days by a person of like abilities and qualifications.
- 10.6 The resources assigned for the Contract will be measured regularly for quality of services rendered. The measurement will be based on the quality and timeliness of the deliverables specified in the Statement of Work. In the event that quality and deliverables are not produced as and when requested, in any given month, the Crown has the right to request that the Contractor replace the assigned resources immediately, in accordance with Contract clauses included in or referenced in the RFP #01B68-15-0183
- 10.7 In no event shall the Contractor allow performance of the Work by unauthorized and/or unqualified personnel, whether initially named resources or replacement personnel. In addition, acceptance of any replacements by the Project Authority shall not relieve the Contractor from responsibility for failure to meet the requirements of the Contract.

11.0 ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT

- 11.1 Access to the following Canada facilities, equipment, documentation and personnel may be required during the Contract period in order to perform the Work:
 - (a) AAFC's premises;
 - (b) Documentation;
 - (c) Personnel for consultation;
 - (d) Office space, telephones, desk space, manuals and terminals.
- 11.2 Subject to the approval of the Project Authority, arrangements will be made for the Contractor to access the required facilities, equipment, documentation and personnel at the client's convenience.
- 11.3 There will be, however, no day-to-day supervision of the Contractor's activities or control of hours of work by the Project Authority.

12.0 DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF CROWN PROPERTY

12.1 The Contractor shall reimburse Canada any cost or expenses due to the damage to or loss of Crown-owned property resulting from the Contract or the carrying out thereof, or shall, upon reasonable notice, promptly repair such damage or substitute such loss to Canada's satisfaction.

13.0 BASIS OF PAYMENT

13.1 For the services provided, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will pay the Contractor in accordance with the Basis of Payment below, and the attached Appendix C (Basis of Payment) for Work performed pursuant to the Contract.

13.2 Limitation of Expenditure:

The limitation of expenditure is a predetermined amount of money representing Canada's total liability to the contractor. The contractor is expected to do its best to satisfactorily complete all the work indicated in the contract to which this basis of payment applies without exceeding the limitation of expenditure. If the contractor cannot perform a part of the work without exceeding the limitation of expenditure, it is not legally required to perform this part of the work unless a negotiated increase to the limitation of expenditure has been previously included in the contract in writing by the Contracting authority.

1. Canada's total liability to the Contractor under the Contract must not exceed \$31,500.00 (plus applicable taxes) for the initial contract period and both option periods. Customs duties are included and the Applicable Taxes are extra.
2. No increase in the total liability of Canada or in the price of the Work resulting from any design changes, modifications or interpretations of the Work, will be authorized or paid to the Contractor unless these design changes, modifications or interpretations have been approved, in writing, by the Contracting Authority before their incorporation into the Work. The Contractor must not perform any work or provide any service that would result in Canada's total liability being exceeded before obtaining the written approval of the Contracting Authority. The Contractor must notify the Contracting Authority in writing as to the adequacy of this sum:
 - (a) when it is 75 percent committed, or
 - (b) four (4) months before the Contract expiry date, or
 - (c) As soon as the Contractor considers that the contract funds provided are inadequate for the completion of the Work,whichever comes first.
3. If the notification is for inadequate contract funds, the Contractor must provide to the Contracting Authority a written estimate for the additional funds required. Provision of such information by the Contractor does not increase Canada's liability.

14.0 METHOD OF PAYMENT

14.1 Payment will be made **no more the once per month for actual days of service incurred**, following the submission of all invoicing documentation as specified in Article 16.0, in accordance with the terms herein this agreement and acceptance by the Departmental Representative.

15.0 DIRECT DEPOSIT

The Contractor agrees to receive payment through direct deposit to a financial institution.

Government of Canada considers privacy and security of utmost importance in the issuance of payments. Any information you provide to the Government of Canada in support of Direct Deposit is protected under the Government of Canada *Privacy Act and Access to Information Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. A-1)*.

Additional information is available at:

www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/txt/depot-deposit-eng.html

16.0 INVOICING INSTRUCTIONS

16.1 Payment will only be made pursuant to the general conditions specified in the Appendix A and upon submission of a satisfactory invoice duly supported by specified release documents and other documents called for under the Contract.

16.2 In addition to Appendix A, Article GC17, invoices must be submitted on the Contractor's own invoice form and must be prepared to show (but not limited to):

- Date of invoice
- Date of completion of work
- Contract number
- Description of work
- Contractor's address
- AAFC Project Authority address

16.3 One (1) original of the invoice together with attachments, shall be forwarded to the Project Authority at the address noted in Article 6.0 hereof.

17.0 MANDATORY CERTIFICATIONS

17.1 Compliance with the certifications the Contractor has provided Canada is a condition of the Contract and subject to verification by Canada during the entire period of the Contract. In the event that the Contractor does not comply with any certification or that it is determined that any certification made by the Contractor is untrue, whether made knowingly or unknowingly, the Minister shall have the right, pursuant to the default provisions of the Contract, to terminate the Contract for default.

18.0 NON-PERMANENT RESIDENT *(the non-applicable clause will be deleted at contract award)*

18.1 (CANADIAN CONTRACTOR)

The Contractor must comply with Canadian immigration requirements applicable to foreign nationals entering Canada to work temporarily in fulfillment of the Contract. If the

Contractor wishes to hire a foreign national to work in Canada to fulfill the Contract, the Contractor should immediately contact the nearest Service Canada regional office to enquire about Citizenship and Immigration Canada's requirements to issue a temporary work permit to a foreign national. The Contractor is responsible for all costs incurred as a result of non-compliance with immigration requirements.

18.2 (FOREIGN CONTRACTOR)

The Contractor must comply with Canadian immigration legislation applicable to foreign nationals entering Canada to work temporarily in fulfillment of the Contract. If the Contractor wishes to hire a foreign national to work in Canada to fulfill the Contract, the Contractor should immediately contact the nearest Canadian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission in the Contractor's country to obtain instructions, information on Citizenship and Immigration Canada's requirements and any required documents. The Contractor is responsible to ensure that foreign nationals have the required information, documents and authorizations before performing any work under the Contract in Canada. The Contractor is responsible for all costs incurred as a result of non-compliance with immigration requirements.

19.0 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

19.1 The Contractor is responsible for deciding if insurance coverage is necessary to fulfill its obligation under the Contract and to ensure compliance with any applicable law. Any insurance acquired or maintained by the Contractor is at its own expense and for its own benefit and protection. It does not release the Contractor from or reduce its liability under the Contract.

APPENDIX “A”

GENERAL CONDITIONS

GC1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 In the contract,

- 1.1 “Applicable Taxes” means the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), and any provincial tax, by law, payable by Canada such as, the Quebec Sales Tax (QST) as of April 1, 2013;
- 1.2 “Canada”, “Crown”, “Her Majesty” or “the Government” means Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada; “Contractor” means the person, entity or entities named in the Contract to supply goods, services or both to Canada;
- 1.3 “Minister” means the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada or anyone authorized;
- 1.4 “Party” means Canada, the Contractor, or any other signatory to the contract and “Parties” means all of them;
- 1.5 “Work” unless otherwise expressed in the Contract, means everything that is necessary to be done, furnished or delivered by the Contractor to perform the Contractor's obligations under the Contract.

GC2. Powers of Canada

All rights, remedies and discretions granted or acquired by Canada under the Contract or by law are cumulative, not exclusive.

GC3. General Conditions

The Contractor is an independent contractor engaged by Canada to perform the Work. Nothing in the Contract is intended to create a partnership, a joint venture or an agency between Canada and the other Party or Parties. The Contractor must not represent itself as an agent or representative of Canada to anyone. Neither the Contractor nor any of its personnel is engaged as an employee or agent of Canada. The Contractor is responsible for all deductions and remittances required by law in relation to its employees.

GC4. Conduct of the Work

4.1 The Contractor represents and warrants that:

- (a) It is competent to perform the Work;
- (b) It has the necessary qualifications, including knowledge, skill and experience, to perform the Work, together with the ability to use those qualifications effectively for that purpose; and
- (c) It has the necessary personnel and resources to perform the Work.

4.2 Except for government property specifically provided for in the Contract, the Contractor shall supply everything necessary for the performance of the Work, including all the resources, facilities, labor and supervision, management, services, equipment, materials, drawings, technical data, technical assistance, engineering services, inspection and quality assurance procedures, and planning necessary to perform the Work.

4.3 The Contractor shall:

- (a) Carry out the Work in a diligent and efficient manner;
- (b) Apply as a minimum, such quality assurance tests, inspections and controls consistent with those in general usage in the trade and that are reasonably calculated to ensure the degree of quality required by the Contract; and
- (c) Ensure that the Work:
 - (1) is of proper quality, material and workmanship;
 - (2) Is in full conformity with the Statement of Work; and
 - (3) Meets all other requirements of the Contract.

4.4 Notwithstanding acceptance of the Work or any part thereof, the Contractor warrants that the Work shall be of such quality as to clearly demonstrate that the Contractor has performed the Work in accordance with the undertaking in subsection 4.3.

GC5. Inspection and Acceptance

- 5.1 The Work will be subject to inspection by Canada. Should any part of the Work whether it be a report, document, good or service not be in accordance with the Contract or not be done to the satisfaction of the Canada, as submitted, Canada will have the right to reject it or require its correction at the sole expense of the Contractor before making payment.
- 5.2 The Contractor will be in default of the Contract if the Work is rejected by Canada or if he fails to correct the Work within a reasonable delay.

GC6. Amendments and Waivers

- 6.1 No design change, modification to the Work, or amendment to the Contract shall be binding unless it is incorporated into the Contract by written amendment or design change memorandum executed by the authorized representatives of Canada and of the Contractor.
- 6.2 While the Contractor may discuss any proposed changes or modifications to the scope of the Work with the representatives of Canada, Canada shall not be liable for the cost of any such change or modification until it has been incorporated into the Contract in accordance with subsection 6.1.
- 6.3 No waiver shall be valid, binding or affect the rights of the Parties unless it is made in writing by, in the case of a waiver by Canada, the Contracting Authority and, in the case of a waiver by the Contractor, the authorized representative of the Contractor.
- 6.4 The waiver by a Party of a breach of any term or condition of the Contract shall not prevent the enforcement of that term or condition by that Party in the case of a subsequent breach, and shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach.

GC7. Time of the Essence

It is essential that the Work be performed within or at the time stated in the Contract.

GC8. Excusable delay

- 8.1 Any delay by the Contractor in performing the Contractor's obligations under the Contract which occurs without any fault or neglect on the part of the Contractor its subcontractors, agents or employees or is caused by an event beyond the control of the Contractor, and which could not have been avoided by the Contractor without incurring unreasonable cost through the use of work-around plans including alternative sources or other means, constitutes an excusable delay.
- 8.2 The Contractor shall give notice to the Minister immediately after the occurrence of the event that causes the excusable delay. The notice shall state the cause and circumstances of the delay and indicate the portion of the Work affected by the delay. When requested to do so by the Minister, the Contractor shall deliver a description, in a form satisfactory to the Minister, of work-around plans including alternative sources and any other means that the Contractor will utilize to overcome the delay and Endeavour to prevent any further delay. Upon approval in writing by the Minister of the work-around plans, the Contractor shall implement the work around plans and use all reasonable means to recover any time lost as a result of the excusable delay.
- 8.3 Unless the Contractor complies with the notice requirements set forth in the Contract, any delay that might have constituted an excusable delay shall be deemed not to be an excusable delay.
- 8.4 If an excusable delay has continued for thirty (30) days or more, Canada may, by giving notice in writing to the Contractor, terminate the Contract. In such a case, the Parties agree that neither will make any claim against the other for damages, costs, expected profits or any other loss arising out of the termination or the event that contributed to the excusable delay. The Contractor agrees to repay immediately to Canada the portion of any advance payment that is unliquidated at the date of the termination.
- 8.5 Unless Canada has caused the delay by failing to meet an obligation under the Contract, Canada will not be responsible for any cost incurred by the contractor or any subcontractors or agents as a result of an excusable delay.
- 8.6 If the Contract is terminated under this section, Canada may require the Contractor to deliver to Canada, in the manner and to the extent directed by Canada, any completed parts of the Work not delivered and accepted before the termination and anything that the Contractor has acquired or produced specifically to perform the Contract. Canada will pay the Contractor:
- (a) The value, of all completed parts of the Work delivered to and accepted by Canada, based on the Contract price, including the proportionate part of the Contractor's profit or fee included in the Contract price; and
 - (b) The cost to the Contractor that Canada considers reasonable in respect of anything else delivered to and accepted by Canada.
- 8.7 The total amount paid by Canada under the Contract to the date of termination and any amounts payable under this subsection must not exceed the Contract price.

GC9. Termination of convenience

- 9.1 Notwithstanding anything in the Contract, the Minister may, by giving notice to the Contractor, terminate or suspend the Contract immediately with respect to all or any part or parts of the Work not completed.
- 9.2 All Work completed by the Contractor to the satisfaction of Canada before the giving of such notice shall be paid for by Canada in accordance with the provisions of the Contract and, for all Work not completed before the giving of such notice, Canada shall pay the Contractor's costs as determined under the provisions of the Contract in an amount representing a fair and reasonable fee in respect of such Work.
- 9.3 In addition to the amount which the Contractor shall be paid under section GC9.2, the Contractor shall be reimbursed for the Contractor's cost of and incidental to the cancellation of obligations incurred by the Contractor pursuant to such notice and obligations incurred by or to which the Contractor is subject with respect to the Work.
- 9.4 The Contractor shall have no claim for damages, compensation, loss of profit, allowance or otherwise by reason of or directly or indirectly arising out of any action taken or notice given by Canada under the provisions of section GC9 except as expressly provided therein.
- 9.5 Upon termination of the Contract under section GC9.1, Canada may require the Contractor to deliver and transfer title to Canada, in the manner and to the extent directed by Canada, any finished Work which has not been delivered prior to such termination and any material, goods or Work-in-progress which the Contractor specifically acquired or produced for the fulfillment of the Contract.

GC10. Termination due to Default of Contractor

- 10.1 Canada may by notice to the Contractor, terminate the whole or any part of the Contract:
- a) If the Contractor fails to perform any of the Contractor's obligations under the Contract or in Canada's view, so fails to make progress so as to endanger performance of the Contract in accordance with its terms;
 - b) To the extent permitted under law, if the Contractor becomes bankrupt or insolvent, or a receiving order is made against the Contractor, or an assignment is made for the benefit of creditors, or if an order is made or resolution passed for the winding up of the Contractor, or if the Contractor takes the benefit of a statute relating to bankrupt or insolvent debtors; or
 - c) If the Contractor makes a false declaration under GC 37 or GC 38 or fails to comply with the terms set out in GC 16.3 or GC 39.
- 10.2 Upon termination of the Contract under section GC10, the Contractor shall deliver to Canada any finished Work which has not been delivered and accepted prior to such termination, together with materials and Work-in-progress relating specifically to the Contract and all materials, texts and other documents supplied to the Contractor in relation to the Contract.
- 10.3 Subject to the deduction of any claim which Canada may have against the Contractor arising under the Contract or out of termination, payment will be made by Canada to the Contractor for the value of all finished Work delivered and accepted by Canada, such value to be determined in accordance with the rate(s) specified in the Contract, or, where no rate is specified, on a proportional basis.
- 10.4 If the contract is terminated pursuant to GC 10.1(c), in addition to any other remedies that may be available against the Contractor, the Contractor will immediately return any advance payments.

GC11. Suspension of Work

- 11.1 The Minister may at any time, by written notice, order the Contractor to suspend or stop the Work or part of the Work under the Contract. The Contractor must immediately comply with any such order in a way that minimizes the cost of doing so.

GC12. Extension of Contract

- 12.1 Where the Minister determines that additional work of the same nature as the Work described in this Contract is required, the Contractor shall do such work and where required the term of the Contract shall be extended accordingly and confirmed in writing between the parties.
- 12.2 Payment for the work described in subsection 1 shall be calculated and paid on the same basis as in section GC12 and where required prorated.
- 12.3 Where the Minister has determined that the Contractor shall be paid expenses related to the Work described in section GC12.1, the type of expenses and amounts shall be confirmed in writing between the parties.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

GC13. Method of Payment

13.1 Payment in the case of progress payments:

- a) Payment by Canada to the Contractor for the Work shall be made within thirty (30) days following the date on which a claim for progress payment is received according to the terms of the Contract; and
- b) If the Minister has any objection to the form of the claim for payment or the substantiating documentation, shall, within fifteen (15) days of its receipt, notify the Contractor in writing of the nature of the objection.

13.2 Payment in the case of payment on completion:

- a) Payment by Canada to the Contractor for the Work shall be made within thirty (30) days following the date on which the Work is completed or on which a claim for payment and substantiating documentation are received according to the terms of the Contract, whichever date is the later;
- b) If the Minister has any objection to the form of the claim for payment or the substantiating documentation, shall, within fifteen (15) days of its receipt, notify the Contractor in writing of the nature of the objection.

GC14. Basis of Payment

14.1 A claim in the form of an itemized account certified by the Contractor with respect to the accuracy of its contents shall be submitted to the Minister.

14.2 Travel and other expenses, where allowed by the Contract, shall be paid in accordance with Treasury Board Guidelines and Directives, certified by the Contractor as to the accuracy of such claim.

GC15. Interest on Overdue Accounts

15.1 For the purposes of this clause:

- (a) "Average Rate" means the simple arithmetic mean of the bank rates in effect at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time each day during the calendar month which immediately precedes the calendar month in which payment is made;
- (b) "Bank rate" means the rate of interest established from time to time by the Bank of Canada as the minimum rate at which the Bank of Canada makes short term advances to members of the Canadian Payments Association;
- (c) "Date of payment" means the date of the negotiable instrument drawn by the Receiver General for Canada and given for payment of an amount due and payable;
- (d) an amount is "due and payable" when it is due and payable by Canada to the Contractor in accordance with the terms of the Contract; and
- (e) An amount becomes "overdue" when it is unpaid on the first day following the day upon which it is due and payable.

15.2 Canada shall be liable to pay to the Contractor simple interest at the Average Bank of Canada discount rate from the previous month plus 3 percent per annum on any amount that is overdue from the date such amount becomes overdue until the day prior to the date of payment, inclusive. The Contractor is not required to provide notice to Canada for interest to be payable.

15.3 Canada shall not be liable to pay interest in accordance with this clause if Canada is not responsible for the delay in paying the Contractor.

15.4 Canada shall not be liable to pay interest on overdue advance payments.

GC16. Records to be kept by Contractor

16.1 The Contractor must keep proper accounts and records of the cost of performing the Work and of all expenditures or commitments made by the Contractor in connection with the Work, including all invoices, receipts and vouchers. The Contractor must retain records, including bills of lading and other evidence of transportation or delivery, for all deliveries made under the Contract.

16.2 If the Contract includes payment for time spent by the Contractor, its employees, representatives, agents or subcontractors performing the Work, the Contractor must keep a record of the actual time spent each day by each individual performing any part of the Work.

16.3 Unless Canada has consented in writing to its disposal, the Contractor must retain all the information described in this section for six (6) years after it receives the final payment under the Contract, or until the settlement of all outstanding claims and disputes, whichever is later. During this time, the Contractor must make this information available for audit, inspection and examination by the representatives of Canada, who may make copies and take extracts. The Contractor must provide all reasonably required facilities for any audit and inspection and must furnish all the information as the representatives of Canada may from time to time require to perform a complete audit of the Contract.

16.4 The amount claimed under the Contract, calculated in accordance with the Basis of Payment provision in the Articles of Agreement, is subject to government audit both before and after payment is made. If an audit is performed after payment, the Contractor agrees to repay any overpayment immediately on demand by Canada. Canada may hold back, deduct and set off any credits owing and unpaid under this section from any money that Canada owes to the Contractor at any time (including under other Contracts). If Canada does not choose to exercise this right at any given time, Canada does not lose this right.

GC17. Invoice Submission

17.1 Invoices must be submitted in the Contractor's name. The Contractor must submit invoices for each delivery or shipment; invoices must only apply to the Contract. Each invoice must indicate whether it covers partial or final delivery.

17.2 Invoices must show:

- (a) the date, the name and address of the client department, item or reference numbers, deliverable and/or description of the Work, contract number, Client Reference Number (CRN), Procurement Business Number (PBN), and financial code(s);
- (b) details of expenditures (such as item, quantity, unit of issue, unit price, fixed time labour rates and level of effort, subcontracts, as applicable) in accordance with the Basis of Payment, exclusive of Applicable Taxes;
- (c) deduction for holdback, if applicable;
- (d) the extension of the totals, if applicable; and
- (e) if applicable, the method of shipment together with date, case numbers and part or reference numbers, shipment charges and any other additional charges.

17.3 Applicable Taxes must be specified on all invoices as a separate item along with corresponding registration numbers from the tax authorities. All items that are zero-rated, exempt or to which Applicable Taxes do not apply, must be identified as such on all invoices.

17.4 By submitting an invoice, the Contractor certifies that the invoice is consistent with the Work delivered and is in accordance with the Contract.

GC18. Right of Set off

Without restricting any right of set off given by law, the Minister may set off against any amount payable to the Contractor under the Contract, any amount payable to Canada by the Contractor under the Contract or under any other current contract. Canada may, when making a payment pursuant to the Contract, deduct from the amount payable to the Contractor any such amount payable to Canada by the Contractor which, by virtue of the right of set off, may be retained by Canada.

GC19. Assignment

19.1 The Contract shall not be assigned in whole or in part by the Contractor without the prior written consent of Canada and an assignment made without that consent is void and of no effect.

19.2 An assignment of the Contract does not relieve the Contractor from any obligation under the Contract or impose any liability upon Canada.

GC20. Subcontracting

20.1 The Contractor must obtain the consent in writing of the Minister before subcontracting.

20.2 Subcontracting does not relieve the Contractor from any of its obligations under the Contract or impose any liability upon Canada to a subcontractor.

20.3 In any subcontract, the Contractor will bind the subcontractor by the same conditions by which the contractor is bound under the Contract.

GC21. Indemnification

21.1 The Contractor shall indemnify and save harmless Canada from and against all claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, actions and other proceedings, made, sustained, brought, prosecuted, threatened to be brought or prosecuted, in any manner based upon, occasioned by or attributable to any injury to or death of a person or damage to or loss of property arising from any willful or negligent act, omission or delay on the part of the Contractor, the Contractor's servants, subcontractors or agents in performing the Work or as a result of the Work.

21.2 The Contractor's liability to indemnify or reimburse Canada under the Contract shall not affect or prejudice Canada from exercising any other rights under law.

GC22. Confidentiality

The Contractor shall treat as confidential, during as well as after performance of the Work, any information to which the Contractor becomes privy as a result of acting under the Contract. The Contractor shall use its best efforts to ensure that its servants, employees, agents, subcontractors or assigned observe the same standards of confidentiality.

GC23. Indemnification - Copyright

The Contractor shall indemnify Canada from and against all costs, charges, expenses, claims, actions, suits and proceedings for the infringement or alleged infringement of any copyright resulting from the performance of the Contractor's obligations under the Contract, and in respect of the use of or disposal by Canada of anything furnished pursuant to the Contract.

GC24. Indemnification - Inventions, etc.

The Contractor shall indemnify Canada from and against all costs, charges, expenses, claims, actions, suits and proceedings for the use of the invention claimed in a patent, or infringement or alleged infringement of any patent or any registered industrial design resulting from the performance of the Contractor's obligations under the Contract, and in respect of the use of or disposal by Canada of anything furnished pursuant to the Contract.

GC25. Ownership of Copyright

25.1 Anything that is created or developed by the Contractor as part of the Work under the Contract in which copyright subsists belongs to Canada. The Contractor must incorporate the copyright symbol and either of the following notices, as appropriate:

© HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA (year)

or

© SA MAJESTÉ LA REINE DU CHEF DU CANADA (année).

25.2 At the request of the Minister, the Contractor must provide to Canada, at the completion of the Work or at such other time as the Minister may require a written permanent waiver of Moral Rights, in a form acceptable to the Minister, from every author that contributed to the Work. If the Contractor is an author, the Contractor permanently waives the Contractor's Moral Rights.

GC26. Taxes

26.1 Municipal Taxes

Municipal Taxes do not apply.

26.2 Federal government departments and agencies are required to pay Applicable Taxes.

26.3 Applicable Taxes will be paid by Canada as provided in the Invoice Submission section. It is the sole responsibility of the Contractor to charge Applicable Taxes at the correct rate in accordance with applicable legislation. The Contractor agrees to remit to appropriate tax authorities any amounts of Applicable Taxes paid or due.

26.4 The Contractor is not entitled to use Canada's exemptions from any tax, such as provincial sales taxes, unless otherwise specified by law. The Contractor must pay applicable provincial sales tax, ancillary taxes, and any commodity tax, on taxable goods or services used or consumed in the performance of the Contract (in accordance with applicable legislation), including for material incorporated into real property.

26.5 In those cases where Applicable Taxes, customs duties, and excise taxes are included in the Contract Price, the Contract Price will be adjusted to reflect any increase, or decrease, of Applicable Taxes, customs duties, and excise taxes that will have occurred between bid submission and contract award. However, there will be no adjustment for any change to increase the Contract Price if public

notice of the change was given before bid submission date in sufficient detail to have permitted the Contractor to calculate the effect of the change.

26.6 Tax Withholding of 15 Percent

Pursuant to the *Income Tax Act*, 1985, c. 1 (5th Supp.) and the Income Tax Regulations, Canada must withhold 15 percent of the amount to be paid to the Contractor in respect of services provided in Canada if the Contractor is a non-resident, unless the Contractor obtains a valid waiver. The amount withheld will be held on account for the Contractor in respect to any tax liability which may be owed to Canada.

GC27. International Sanctions

27.1 Persons in Canada, and Canadians outside of Canada, are bound by economic sanctions imposed by Canada. As a result, the Government of Canada cannot accept delivery of goods or services that originate, either directly or indirectly, from the countries or persons subject to economic sanctions.

Details on existing sanctions can be found at:

<http://www.international.gc.ca/sanctions/index.aspx?lang=eng>

27.2 The Contractor must not supply to the Government of Canada any goods or services which are subject to economic sanctions.

27.3 The Contractor must comply with changes to the regulations imposed during the period of the Contract. The Contractor must immediately advise Canada if it is unable to perform the Work as a result of the imposition of economic sanctions against a country or person or the addition of a good or service to the list of sanctioned goods or services. If the Parties cannot agree on a work around plan, the Contract will be terminated for convenience in accordance with section GC9.

GC28. T1204 Government Service Contract Payment

28.1 Pursuant to regulations made pursuant to paragraph 221 (1)(d) of the *Federal Income Tax Act*, payments made by departments and agencies to Contractors under applicable services Contracts (including Contracts involving a mix of goods and services) must be reported on a T1204 Government Service Contract Payment. To enable client departments and agencies to comply with this requirement, Contractors are required to provide information as to their legal name and status, business number, and/or Social Insurance Number or other supplier information as applicable, along with a certification as to the completeness and accuracy of the information.

GC29. Successors and Assigns

The Contract shall ensure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their lawful heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns as the case may be.

GC30. Conflict of Interest and Values and Ethics Codes for the Public Service

The Contractor acknowledges that individuals who are subject to the provisions of the *Conflict of Interest Act*, 2006, c. 9, s. 2, the Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons, any applicable federal values and ethics code or any applicable federal policy on conflict of interest and post-employment shall not derive any direct benefit resulting from the Contract unless the provision or receipt of such benefit is in compliance with such legislation and codes.

GC31. No Bribe

The Contractor declares that no bribe, gift, benefit, or other inducement has been or will be paid, given, promised or offered directly or indirectly to any official or employee of Canada or to a member of the family of such a person, with a view to influencing the entering into the Contract or the administration of the Contract.

GC32. Errors

Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this Contract, no amount shall be paid to the Contractor based on the cost of Work incurred to remedy errors or omissions for which the Contractor or his servants, agents or subcontractors are responsible, and such errors or omissions shall be remedied at the Contractor's cost, or, at the option of Canada, the Contract may be terminated and in that event the Contractor shall receive payment only as determined under section GC10.

GC33. Performance

The failure of Canada to require performance by the Contractor of any provision of this Contract shall not affect the right of Canada thereafter to enforce such provision, nor shall the waiver by Canada of any breach of any term of the Contract be taken or held to be a waiver of any further breach of the same or any other term or condition.

GC34. Gender

Whenever the singular or masculine is used throughout this Contract, it shall be construed as including the plural, feminine, or both whenever the context and/or the parties hereto so require.

GC35. Survival

All the Parties' obligations of confidentiality, representations and warranties set out in the Contract as well as any other the provisions, which by the nature of the rights or obligations might reasonably be expected to survive, will survive the expiry or termination of the Contract.

GC36. Severability

If any provision of the Contract is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, that provision will be removed from the Contract without affecting any other provision of the Contract.

GC37. Contingency Fees

The Contractor certifies that it has not, directly or indirectly, paid or agreed to pay and agrees that it will not, directly or indirectly, pay a contingency fee for the solicitation, negotiation or obtaining of the Contract to any person, other than an employee of the Contractor acting in the normal course of the employee's duties. In this section, "contingency fee" means any payment or other compensation that depends or is calculated based on a degree of success in soliciting, negotiating or obtaining the Contract and "person" includes any individual who is required to file a return with the registrar pursuant to section 5 of the *Lobbying Act*, 1985, c. 44 (4th Supplement).

GC38. Criminal Offense

The Contractor declares that the contractor has not been convicted of an offence, other than an offence for which a pardon has been granted, under section 121, 124 or 418 of the Criminal Code.

GC39. Public Disclosure

39.1 The Contractor consents, in the case of a contract that has a value in excess of \$10,000, to the public disclosure of basic information - other than information described in any of paragraphs 20 (1)(a) to (d) of the *Access to Information Act* - relating to the contract.

39.2 The contractor consents, in the case of a contract with a former public servant in receipt of a Public Servant Superannuation (PSSA) pension, that the contractor's status, with respect to being a former public servant in receipt of a pension, will be reported on departmental websites as part of the published proactive disclosure reports described in 39.1.

GC40. Notice

Any notice under the Contract must be in writing and may be delivered by hand, courier, mail, facsimile or other electronic method that provides a paper record of the text of the notice. It must be sent to the Party for whom it is intended at the address stated in the Contract. Any notice will be effective on the day it is received at that address. Any notice to Canada must be delivered to the Minister.

GC41. Accuracy

The Contractor represents and warrants that the information submitted with its bid is accurate and complete. The Contractor acknowledges that the Minister has relied upon such information in entering into this Contract. This information may be verified in such manner as the Minister may reasonably require.

GC42. Dispute Resolution Services

The parties understand that the Procurement Ombudsman appointed pursuant to subsection 22.1 (1) of the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act* will, on request of a party, provide a proposal for an alternative dispute resolution process to resolve any dispute arising between the parties respecting the interpretation or application of a term or condition of this contract. The parties may consent to participate in the proposed alternative dispute resolution process and to bear the cost of such process. The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman may be contacted by telephone at 1-866-734-5169 or by email at boa.opo@boa.opo.gc.ca

GC43. Contract Administration

The parties understand that the Procurement Ombudsman appointed pursuant to Subsection 22.1 (1) of the Department of *Public Works and Government Services Act* will review a complaint filed by the contractor respecting administration of this contract if the requirements of Subsection 22.2 (1) of the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act* and Section 15 and 16 of the

Procurement Ombudsman Regulations have been met, and the interpretation and application of the terms and conditions and the scope of the work of this contract are not in dispute. The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman may be contacted by telephone at 1-866-734-5169 or by email at boa.opo@boa.opo.gc.ca

GC44. Entire Agreement

The Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties relative to the subject procurement and supersedes all previous negotiations, communications and other agreements, whether written or oral, unless they are incorporated by reference in the Contract. There are no terms, covenants, representations, statements or conditions relative to the subject procurement binding on the Parties other than those contained in the Contract.

APPENDIX “B”

STATEMENT OF WORK

BACKGROUND

Treasury Board Policy on Evaluation

A revised Treasury Board (TB) Policy on Evaluation took effect on April 1, 2009. The objective of this policy is to ensure that credible, timely, and neutral information on the ongoing relevance and performance of government expenditures is available to ministers, departments, and central agencies to support evidence-based decision-making on policy, expenditure management, and program improvements. This also ensures that information is available to Parliament and Canadians to support accountability for results achieved by programs and policies.

To achieve this objective, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) undertakes objective evaluations of its programs, policies, and initiatives. These evaluations are conducted by AAFC's Office of Audit and Evaluation.

Evaluation of **continued relevance** examines the policy, program, or initiative in the context of Federal Government priorities, AAFC policy and priorities, roles and responsibilities, and strategic objectives, and current trends in the agriculture sector, as well as examining whether there is a continued need for the program. Evaluation also examines the delivery of the policy, program, or initiative such that goals and objectives can be achieved, as well as assessment of whether implementation has occurred as intended.

Evaluation of **performance** examines the extent to which the policy, program, or initiative delivers expected outputs, outcomes and objectives in relation to resources used. This assessment is conducted with regard to the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the programs, policies or initiatives. Particularly, the **cost-effectiveness** (economy) assessment examines the relationship between funding spent for a program or initiative and results achieved. This relationship is also considered relative to alternative design and delivery approaches.

AAFC uses a rolling five-year plan to strategically identify policy, programs, and initiatives for evaluation. This plan prioritizes evaluations based on senior management needs, including relationships to strategic and other priorities, risk, and materiality and Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) requirements for evaluation.

Evaluation reports contain recommendations. Upon completion of an evaluation, branch program managers are required to prepare Management Responses and Action Plans (MRAPs) to address evaluation findings and recommendations.

Departmental Evaluation Committees:

The TB Policy on Evaluation requires each Deputy Minister to have a Departmental Evaluation Committee (DEC), to be chaired by the Deputy Head or senior level designate. The Committee is to serve as an advisory body to the Deputy Minister on all evaluation and evaluation-related activities of the department.

The TB Policy on Evaluation assigns the Deputy Minister responsibility for the department's evaluation function. The Committee is accountable to the Deputy Minister and is responsible for providing objective advice on the departmental evaluation plan, resourcing, and final evaluation reports, and may also serve as the decision-making body on other evaluation and evaluation-related activities of the department.

To achieve the above and to ensure neutrality and demonstrated results and progress, AAFC's DEC reviews terms of reference, reports, and MRAPs. AAFC's Evaluation Committee is chaired by the Deputy Minister (or Associate Deputy Minister), and is comprised of Branch Heads from Corporate Management Branch, Strategic Policy Branch, Market and Industry Services Branch, Science & Technology Branch (or Associate ADM), Programs Branch and the DG of Service and Program Excellence Directorate; external member(s); the Director General, Office of Audit and Evaluation (Head of Evaluation); the Director of Evaluation and the Corporate Secretary as Exofficio. The Committee members are responsible to review evaluation products and to provide advice and recommendations, including recommendations, reports and MRAPs to AAFC's Deputy Minister. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for AAFC's DEC, attached as Appendix A, outlines the purpose, accountabilities, membership and responsibilities of the Committee in greater detail.

As part of AAFC's continuous efforts to further ensure objective assessment of evaluation-related plans, documents and activities, AAFC is seeking to engage the services of external member(s) to participate on the DEC.

In addition to the responsibilities of the Evaluation Committee, there may be, on an ad hoc basis, requirements for the contractor to engage in the Departmental Audit Committee. This additional role will ensure collaboration between evaluations and audits conducted in the department.

OBJECTIVE

Participation as an external member on AAFC's DEC involves comprehensively reviewing all evaluation documentation and providing advice and recommendations to AAFC's DEC and Deputy Minister.

SCOPE OF WORK

Taking into account corporate and government-wide priorities and trends and developments, priorities and trends in the agriculture sector, and any other key information or documents as may be provided, the contractor will be required to undertake the following work:

- Participate in DEC meetings;
- Review the adequacy of the department's evaluation coverage;
- Review key elements of evaluations;
- Review and recommend final evaluation reports and AAFC management responses;
- Provide advice on follow-up to evaluation findings and recommendations;
- Review resources allocated to the department's evaluation function and performance measurement activities;
- Review the department's evaluation and performance measurement functions and recommend improvements where required;
- Any other work related to the DEC's mandate as requested by AAFC's Deputy Minister or Head of Evaluation; and

- Any ad hoc work related to the Departmental Audit Committee as requested by AAFC's Deputy Minister or Head of Evaluation.

TASKS

The tasks outlined below constitute the responsibilities of the DEC, as outlined above and in the DEC Terms of Reference (ToR).

- 1) Reviewing the adequacy of evaluation coverage, as expressed in the 5-year departmental evaluation plan developed by the Head of Evaluation, as well as the risk-based approach for determining the evaluation approach and level of effort to be applied to the individual evaluations comprised in the plan, and recommending the plan for approval by the Deputy Minister;
- 2) If requested by the Head of Evaluation:
 - a. Reviewing key elements of an evaluation, such as the terms of reference; and
 - b. Considering and responding to key evaluation-related issues;
- 3) Reviewing final evaluation reports, including management responses and action plans, and recommending approval to the Deputy Minister;
- 4) Review follow-up to the MRAPs implementation of evaluation recommendations and recommend approval to the Deputy Minister; and
- 5) Reviewing the adequacy of resources allocated to the evaluation function and recommending to the Deputy Minister an adequate level of resources consistent with the departmental evaluation plan;
- 6) Reviewing the adequacy of resources allocated to performance measurement activities as they relate to evaluation, and recommending to the Deputy Minister an adequate level of resources for these activities; and
- 7) Reviewing the performance of the evaluation function, and recommending action to address any weaknesses.

The contractor must also provide advice and recommendations to AAFC's Deputy Minister with respect to any other process or product pertaining to the evaluation function, AAFC policies, programs and initiatives at the request of the Project Authority (AAFC's Office of Audit and Evaluation), **including matters related to the Departmental Audit Committee.**

The contractor must review DEC Records of Decision (RoD) to ensure that they are accurate and complete. The Project Authority will be responsible for producing RoDs.

The contractor must stay abreast of developments with corporate and government-wide priorities, trends and developments, and priorities and trends in the agriculture sector, as these pertain to fulfilling their responsibilities as member of the DEC. Basic information pertaining to AAFC's mandate, plans, and priorities can be found on AAFC's website at www.agr.gc.ca

The contractor must also stay up to date, and become familiar with, any new policy, standard and practices in the area of evaluation, and must comprehensively and critically assess evaluation plans and products against these standards/policies. TBS policies and standards related to evaluation can be found at the following web address: "<http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca> " by accessing the hyperlink 'Policy and Oversight'.

CLIENT SUPPORT

The Project Authority will coordinate all meetings and will provide the contractor with all documentation to be reviewed in order to participate in meetings.

CONTRACT PERIOD:

The Contract shall be from the date of contract award to March 31st, 2017.

The Contractor grants to Canada the irrevocable option to extend the duration of the Contract by up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods under the same terms and conditions.

BASIS OF PAYMENT

The basis of payment for this work will be a per-diem basis with a Limitation of Expenditure, based on a 7.5-hour day. The total limitation of expenditure for the resources will not exceed \$31,500.00 excluding applicable taxes and travel allowance. Payment will be made for days worked. Time worked which is more or less than a day shall be prorated to reflect actual time worked in accordance to the following formula:

Hours worked X firm per diem rate ÷ 7.5 hours (No premium will be paid for overtime hours)

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES

Deliverables:

The contractor will be required to meet the following obligations:

- Prepare for DEC meetings through the provision of a comprehensive review of all evaluation materials described in this statement of work;
- Participate at DEC meetings through the provision of advice and recommendations to AAFC's Deputy Minister pertaining to all evaluation materials described in this statement of work; and
- Participate at DAC meetings, on an ad hoc basis, through the provision of advice and recommendations to AAFC's Deputy Minister pertaining to audit materials provided by Project Authority; and
- The contractor must provide all deliverables verbally or in writing during DEC meetings, and as requested by the Project Authority. The contractor must be available for follow-up outside of DEC meetings for additional consultation as and when requested by the Project Authority. On occasion, the contractor may be required to provide input, advice or recommendations on evaluation-related issues outside of DEC meetings, as requested by the Project Authority.

Meeting Schedule:

DEC meetings are normally held three times per year (in fall, winter and spring on dates to be determined by the Project Authority). However, the Project Authority reserves the right to schedule additional or fewer evaluation meetings.

Tentative DEC Meeting Dates (Subject to Change by the Project Authority)	
2016-17 (3 meetings)	September 2016 December 2016 March 2017
1 st year Option - 2017-18 (3 meetings)	September 2017 December 2017 March 2018
2 nd year Option – 2018-19 (3 meetings)	September 2018 December 2018 March 2019

The Project Authority will choose the location of the DEC meetings. Meetings will most often be held at AAFC national headquarters in Ottawa.

The additional support to the Departmental Audit Committee will be on an ad hoc basis.

CONTRACTOR’S PERSONNEL

The contractor's resource must participate as the external member on the DEC in person or through videoconference or teleconference as requested by the Project Authority.

SECURITY

Evaluation materials, documents, and committee discussions may be classified at the secret security level. The contractor must safeguard all information as outlined in the contract until such time as that information is made publicly available by AAFC. (The contractor must review all documentation classified at the secret security level on AAFC premises.)

LANGUAGE

The language of work will be English; therefore, any proposed resource must be fluent in all aspects to English communication. Ability to communicate in French is an asset, but is not mandatory. Therefore it will be a rated requirement, assessed on a “pass / fail” basis. (Only a statement indicating capability is required from the proposer).

PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS

It is expected that there will be ongoing discussions and consultations via telephone and email between the Project Authority and the Contractor.

As requested by the Project Authority, the Contractor must meet with AAFC representatives to ensure common understanding, appropriate review of materials, and follow-up.

There may be one face-to-face meeting after contract award, as determined by the Project Authority.

The contractor must also liaise with the Project Authority for planning and informational purposes.

The contractor must immediately report to the Project Authority, by telephone or by email, on any urgent issue that arises during the course of the work that could impact on its progress.

LOCATION OF WORK

National Capital Region: AAFC premises, and Contractor premises.

ATTACHMENT 1 TO APPENDIX B

Departmental Evaluation Committee

Terms of Reference

Office of Audit and Evaluation

December 2015

PURPOSE

A revised Treasury Board Policy on Evaluation took effect on April 1, 2009. Its objective is to create a comprehensive and reliable base of evaluation evidence to support policy and program improvement, expenditure management, Cabinet decision making, and public reporting.

The Policy requires each Deputy Minister to have a departmental evaluation committee, to be chaired by the deputy head or senior level designate. The committee is to serve as an advisory body to the Deputy Minister, and is assigned responsibility for advising the Deputy Minister on all evaluation and evaluation-related activities of the department.

This document sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Departmental Evaluation Committee (the Committee) and replaces the Terms of Reference dated October 2010.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

The Treasury Board Policy on Evaluation assigns the Deputy Minister responsibility for the department's evaluation function. The Committee is accountable to the Deputy Minister, and is responsible for providing objective advice on the departmental evaluation plan, resourcing, and final evaluation reports, and may also serve as the decision-making body on other evaluation and evaluation related activities of the department.

The Deputy Minister is responsible for chairing the Committee, or appointing a senior level designate to chair the Committee; for ensuring that the Committee is supported by the Head of Evaluation on evaluation matters; and for ensuring that the Committee is structured with specific roles and responsibilities, as set-out in Annex B to the Treasury Board Policy on Evaluation.

MEMBERSHIP

AAFC's Departmental Evaluation Committee is chaired by the Deputy Minister (or Associate Deputy Minister), and is comprised of Branch Heads from Corporate Management Branch, Strategic Policy Branch, Market and Industry Services Branch, Science & Technology Branch (or Associate ADM), Programs Branch and the DG of Service and Program Excellence Directorate; external member(s); the Director General, Office of Audit and Evaluation (Head of Evaluation); the Director of Evaluation and the Corporate Secretary as Ex officio.

Other Assistant Deputy Ministers and/or Directors General would be invited depending on evaluations to be tabled.

External member(s) will possess expertise in the area of evaluation and/or in other areas that are relevant to AAFC's work, such as experience in program design or delivery, or extensive knowledge of the agriculture and agri-food sector. Coverage of these areas can be achieved by engaging external experts who collectively possess the required knowledge and experience in these areas.

The Deputy Minister, as Chair, can also request the attendance of other departmental officials, Treasury Board officials, and external experts as required, to discuss evaluation-related issues. The Deputy Minister can also request that key elements of an evaluation, such as terms of reference or draft findings, as well as final reports and management responses and action plans be presented to the Departmental Audit Committee for discussion.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee meets up to three times a year (1-2 hour meetings) and may convene additional meetings if required. The Chair calls Committee meetings, sets the meeting agenda in consultation with the Head of Evaluation, and manages the meetings. Quorum is a majority of the Committee members. No alternates will be permitted, without the permission of the Committee Chair.

Meeting dates and the forward agenda will normally be set six months in advance, so that departmental management and AAFC evaluators can prepare the information and reports required to support the Committee's work.

Should an evaluation product and/or issue require immediate review, and a meeting of the Committee is not possible, the Policy and Program Management Committee (PPMC) may be convened as the Departmental Evaluation Committee for the purpose of reviewing the document.

The Committee is responsible for the following:

- 1) Reviewing the adequacy of evaluation coverage, as expressed in the 5-year departmental evaluation plan developed by the Head of Evaluation, as well as the risk-based approach for determining the evaluation approach and level of effort to be applied to the individual evaluations comprised in the plan, and recommending the plan for approval by the Deputy Minister;
- 2) If requested by the Head of Evaluation:
 - a. Reviewing key elements of an evaluation, such as the terms of reference; and
 - b. Considering and responding to key evaluation-related issues;
- 3) Reviewing final evaluation reports, including management responses and action plans, and recommending approval to the Deputy Minister;
- 4) Review follow-up to the MRAPs implementation of evaluation recommendations and recommend approval to the Deputy Minister; and
- 5) Reviewing the adequacy of resources allocated to the evaluation function and recommending to the Deputy Minister an adequate level of resources consistent with the departmental evaluation plan;

- 6) Reviewing the adequacy of resources allocated to performance measurement activities as they relate to evaluation, and recommending to the Deputy Minister an adequate level of resources for these activities; and
- 7) Reviewing the performance of the evaluation function, and recommending action to address any weaknesses.

Attendance by member Branch Heads will be critical when evaluations of their programs or initiatives are being reviewed. Branch Heads will be responsible for presenting their management responses and action plans, and for responding to questions from Committee members. Branch Heads will recuse themselves from making recommendations on approval of evaluation reports and management responses and action plans, which relate to programs and/or initiatives that fall under their areas of responsibility.

External member(s) of the Committee are responsible for providing independent, objective advice on AAFC evaluation products and processes, as outlined above. When requested by the Deputy Minister or the Head of Evaluation, external member(s) of the Committee may be asked for advice, outside of the established Committee meetings, on evaluation-related issues, products or processes.

SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE

The Director General, Office of Audit and Evaluation, provides administrative support for the Committee. This includes: the preparation of agendas for meetings; coordination of presentations; distribution of reports and/or related documents prepared for the Committee's information and/or review; and preparation and distribution of meeting notes. Records of discussion/decision will include a record of the persons present, a record of decisions taken, and a high-level summary.

Orientation and training on the Committee's responsibilities, the Treasury Board Policy on Evaluation, and the work of the Department, will be provided to external member(s) to assist them in carrying out their evaluation-related responsibilities.

To assist the Committee in reviewing the adequacy of resources allocated to the evaluation function, the Office of Audit and Evaluation will prepare an annual Head of Evaluation Report, based on a comprehensive control framework and performance measurement framework that have been developed for the function.

In addition, to assist the Committee in reviewing issues related to performance measurement within the department, the Committee will consider, among other things, an annual report on the state of performance measurement of programs prepared by the Office of Audit and Evaluation, and related documents on performance measurement prepared by other Branches within the department.

EFFECTIVE DATE

These Terms of Reference will take effect on the date of their signature by the Deputy Minister. They will be updated as necessary to ensure their continued relevance, and compliance with the Treasury Board Policy on Evaluation.

Andrea Lyon
Deputy Minister
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Date

APPENDIX "C"

BASIS OF PAYMENT

1.0 General

Payment shall be in accordance with **article 14.0 of Part 3, Method of Payment and 15.0 of Part 3, Direct Deposit.**

All deliverables FOB destination, Canadian custom duties and excise tax (if applicable). If applicable, Applicable Taxes for the labour will be shown separately.

2.0 Pricing Basis

The Contractor shall be paid in accordance with the following for work performed under the Contract.

Pricing Table

A	B	C
Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rate (initial contract period)	Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rate (option year 1)	Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rate (option year 2)
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Aggregate Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rate = A+B+C

A+B+C = \$ _____

Applicable taxes \$ _____

Total \$ _____

3.0 Travel and Living Expenses

No travel will be reimbursed under this contract.

APPENDIX “D”

EVALUATION PROCEDURES & CRITERIA

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

It is essential that the elements contained in the Proposal be stated in a clear manner and in sufficient depth to allow for evaluation by the evaluation team.

1.0 METHOD OF SELECTION – HIGHEST COMBINED SCORE OF TECHNICAL MERIT AND PRICE

- 1.1 The evaluation process is designed to identify the most qualified contractor to provide services as stipulated in the Statement of Work (Appendix B).
- 1.2 This section comprises the detailed Proposal requirements that will be used to evaluate Bidders’ responses to the RFP.
- 1.3 The mandatory requirements under section 2.0 will be evaluated on a compliant/non-compliant basis. The Proposals must include the necessary documentation to demonstrate this compliance.
- 1.4 The selection of the responsive Proposal will be made on the basis of the **HIGHEST COMBINED SCORE** for both the technical and financial proposals. The combined scores will be determined by adding the technical and financial points obtained.

The Bidders’ Technical and Financial proposals will be scored separately. An Overall Proposal Score will be determined by combining a Bidder’s Technical Proposal Score and Financial Proposal Score in accordance with the following weights:

Technical Proposal = 70%
Financial Proposal = 30%
Overall Proposal = 100%

Formula:

$$\frac{\text{Technical Score} \times \text{Ratio (70)}}{\text{Max Points}} + \frac{\text{Lowest Price} \times \text{Ratio (30)}}{\text{Bidder's Price}} = \text{Overall Score}$$

Example:

<i>Highest Combined Rating Technical Merit (70%) and Price (30%)</i>			
<i>Calculation</i>	<i>Technical Points</i>	<i>Price Points</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
Proposal 1 - Tech = 88/100 - Price = \$60,000	$\frac{88 \times 70}{100} = 61.6$	$\frac{*50 \times 30}{60} = 25$	= 86.6

Proposal 2 - Tech = 86/100 - Price - \$55,000	$\frac{86 \times 70}{100} = 60.2$	$\frac{*50 \times 30}{55} = 27.27$	= 87.47
Proposal 3 - Tech = 76/100 - Price = \$50,000	$\frac{76 \times 70}{100} = 53.2$	$\frac{*50 \times 30}{50} = 30$	= 83.2
* Represents the lowest priced proposal Bidder 2 is successful with the highest combined rating of 87.47			

1.5 **To be considered Responsive, a Proposal Must:**

- 1- Meet all the mandatory requirements specified in section 2.0 below;
- 2- Achieve a minimum overall score of **40 out of 58** points as identified in rated criteria.

1.6 The price of the Proposal will be evaluated in CANADIAN DOLLARS, Applicable Taxes excluded, FOB destination for goods/services, Customs Duties and Excise Taxes included.

1.7 Failure of a Proposal to provide information in sufficient detail and depth to permit evaluation against the identified criteria may render a Proposal non-responsive. **All Bidders are advised that only listing experience without providing any supporting data to describe where and how such experience was obtained will not be considered to be “demonstrated” for the purpose of the evaluation. All professional experience must be fully demonstrated in the Proposal (i.e., dates, number of years and months of experience).**

1.8 The Bidders acknowledge and agree that Canada is not responsible to search for, and therefore evaluate, information that is not properly referenced or is not otherwise provided in accordance with the Proposal Preparation Instructions in Part 2, Article 3.0.

1.9 Bidders shall not place any conditions or make any assumptions that attempt to limit or otherwise modify the scope of Work pursuant to the Statement of Work (Appendix B).

1.10 In the event two or more responsive proposals receive the same combined score, the proposal with the (highest technical score / lowest price) will be ranked higher.

2.0 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Failure to comply with any of the mandatory requirements will render the Proposal non-compliant and the Proposal will receive no further consideration.

The Bidder is requested to use the tables provided to identify where the information can be found in the proposal (i.e.: Identify the page / project number, etc.)

Responses must demonstrate compliance with both of these mandatory criteria and provide complete details as to:

- i) Where (client name and address)*
- ii) When (the “month” of the start and end dates of engagements, e.g. February 2010- July 2011)*
- iii) Nature of the work experience.*

Criteria	Mandatory Evaluation Criteria	Pass/Fail	Location reference to bidder proposal (Page/Section)
M.1	<p>The bidder must have had significant experience within at least the last 3 years in providing advice on program performance and performance measurement and / or on evaluation plans, methodologies and reports directly to senior executives in the public service (Deputy Minister or equivalent at the Canadian federal or provincial level.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Significant” is defined as meaning that the provision of advice on these subjects was the central and principal role of the bidder, and not incidental to or part of other, broader responsibilities • “Equivalent” is defined as referring to other positions at the “Deputy Head”, i.e. most senior, level of a federal or provincial public service organization. 		
M.2	<p>The bidder must have at least 2 years of public service senior executive experience in a Canadian federal or provincial government organization (at least at the level of Assistant Deputy Minister or other senior executive position reporting directly to a Deputy Minister.)</p>		

3.0 POINT RATED REQUIREMENTS

The Bidder should address the rated requirements in the order in which they are listed and in sufficient detail so that an in-depth evaluation is possible. These criteria will be used by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to evaluate each Proposal. The assessment by AAFC will be based solely on the information contained in the Proposal. An item not addressed will be given zero (0) points

under the point rated system. AAFC may, but is not obligated to, ask the Bidder for clarifications.

THE TABLE BELOW MUST BE FILLED IN AND INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL. Reference locations in the proposal or resource(s) resume, as applicable, must be indicated by page number and/or specific section for ease of evaluation.

As applicable, responses must provide complete details as to:

- a. *Where (client name and address)*
- b. *When (the “month” of the start and end dates of engagements, e.g. February 2010- July 2011)*
- c. *Nature of the work experience.*

Criteria	RATED REQUIREMENTS	Page No.	Max Points
Credentials and Experience:			
R.1			
1	<p>Points will be awarded to the contractor for additional <u>years</u> of experience as a senior executive in a Canadian federal or provincial government organization (at least at the level of Assistant Deputy Minister or equivalent).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Additional” means in addition to the minimum of 2 years of senior public service executive experience that is mandatory, and described in M.2. <p>Maximum: 5 pts</p>		5
R.2			
	<p>Points will be awarded to the contractor for experience (<u>months / years</u>) as a member on an advisory committee or body with responsibility for providing independent and objective advice directly to senior executives in the public service.</p> <p>Maximum: 5 pts</p>		5
R.3			
	<p>Points will be awarded to the contractor for <u>months / years</u> of experience as a senior executive (at least at the level of Assistant Deputy Minister or equivalent at the Canadian federal or provincial level, or deputy-level executive) with responsibility for policy, programs or initiatives in the area of agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Equivalent” is defined as referring to a senior position which is a direct report to and is advisory to the Deputy Head or most senior position in a public sector organization. <p>Maximum: 5 pts</p>		5

R.4			
	<p>Points will be awarded to the contractor for months / years of experience as a senior executive (at least at the level of Assistant Deputy Minister or equivalent at the Canadian federal or provincial level, or deputy-level executive) with responsibility for policy, programs or initiatives in the area of program performance and performance measurement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Equivalent” is defined as referring to a senior position which is a direct report to and is advisory to the Deputy Head or most senior position in a public sector organization. <p>Maximum: 5 pts</p>		5
R.5	<p>Points will be awarded for ability to communicate in French.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Communicate” is defined as having a basic ability to speak and to comprehend the French language. <p>Maximum: 3 pts</p>		3
Question Requiring Written Response:			
R.6			
	<p>The bidder should describe the considerations he / she would assess in reviewing program evaluation reports, and management responses and action plans, in order to provide advice and recommendations to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).</p> <p>Maximum 10 pts</p>		10
	<p>TOTAL POINTS – RATED REQUIREMENTS (pre – oral presentation) The bidders with the top 5 scores from this section will be invited to participate in the oral presentation.</p>		33
Oral Presentation:			
R.7			
	<p>Consistent with the approach described above, bidders will be invited to participate in an oral presentation of up to 30 minutes duration.</p> <p>The oral presentation will be followed by a short clarification period with the Selection Committee.</p> <p>The question(s)/subject(s) will be provided (24) hours in advance of the oral presentation.</p> <p>The intent of the presentation would be for the bidder to demonstrate a) key contextual knowledge of the agricultural sector and of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), and b) key competencies relevant to effective participation on the Departmental Evaluation Committee (and providing advice to the Deputy Minister).</p>	N/A	25

	TOTAL POINTS – RATED REQUIREMENTS (including the oral presentation)		/58

4.0 FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

4.1 The Proposer must complete the following Pricing Table.

Pricing Table

A	B	C
Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rate (initial contract period)	Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rate (option year 1)	Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rate (option year 2)
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Aggregate Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rate = A+B+C

A+B+C = \$ _____
Applicable taxes \$ _____
Total \$ _____

4.2 The total cost of the financial proposal will be evaluated based off of the aggregate firm all-inclusive per diem rate: A+B+C

5.0 DETERMINATION OF SUCCESSFUL BIDDER

The Bidders will be ranked according to the combined financial and technical score. The Bidder with the highest combined score will be awarded the contract.

**APPENDIX “E”
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The following certification requirements apply to this Request for Proposal (RFP) document. Bidders should include, with their proposal, a signed copy of this certification below.

A) LEGAL ENTITY AND CORPORATE NAME

Please certify that the Bidder is a legal entity that can be bound by the contract and sued in court and indicate **i)** whether the Bidder is a corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship, **ii)** the laws under which the Bidder was registered or formed, **iii)** together with the registered or corporate name. Also identify **iv)** the country where the controlling interest/ownership (name if applicable) of the Bidder is located.

i) _____
ii) _____
iii) _____
iv) _____

Any resulting Contract may be executed under the following **i)** corporate full legal name and **ii)** at the following place of business (complete address) **iii)** telephone and fax number and email:

i) _____
ii) _____
iii) _____

Name

Signature

Date

B) EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE CERTIFICATION

We certify that all statements made with regard to the education and the experience of individuals proposed for completing the subject Work are accurate and factual, and we are aware that the Minister reserves the right to verify any information provided in this regard and that untrue statements may result in the proposal being declared **non-responsive** or in other action which the Minister may consider appropriate.

Name

Signature

Date

C) PRICE/RATE CERTIFICATION

"We hereby certify that the price quoted have been computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to all like services rendered and sold by us, that such prices are not in excess of the lowest prices charged anyone else, including our most favoured customer for like quality and quantity so the services, does not include an element of profit on the sale in excess of that normally obtained by us on the sale of services of like quality and quantity, and does not include any provision for discounts or commissions to selling agents".

Name

Signature

Date

D) VALIDITY OF PROPOSAL

It is requested that proposals submitted in response to this Request for Proposal be:

- valid in all aspects, including price, for not less than one hundred and twenty (120) days from the closing date of this RFP; and,
- signed by an authorized representative of the Bidder in the space provided on the RFP; and,
- provide the name and telephone number of a representative who may be contacted for clarification or other matters relating to the Bidder's proposal.

Name

Signature

Date

E) AVAILABILITY AND STATUS OF PERSONNEL

The Bidder certifies that, should it be authorized to provide services under any contract resulting from this RFP, the employees proposed in its proposal will be available to commence performance of the work within a reasonable time from contract award, or within the time specified herein.

If the Bidder has proposed any person in fulfilment of this requirement who is not an employee of the Bidder, the Bidder hereby certifies that it has written permission from such person to propose the services of such person in relation to the work to be performed in fulfilment of this requirement and to submit such person's résumé to the Contracting Authority.

During the proposal evaluation, the Bidder MUST, upon the request of the Contracting Authority, provide a copy of such written permission, in relation to

any or all non-employees proposed. The Bidder agrees that failure to comply with such a request may lead to disqualification of the Bidder's proposal from further consideration.

Name

Signature

Date

F) FORMER PUBLIC SERVANT – STATUS AND DISLCOSURE

Contracts with former public servants (FPS) in receipt of a pension or of a lump sum payment must bear the closest public scrutiny, and reflect fairness in the spending of public funds. In order to comply with Treasury Board policies and directives on contracts with FPS, bidders must provide the information required below.

Definitions

For the purposes of this clause, "former public servant" is any former member of a department as defined in the Financial Administration Act, R.S., 1985, c. F-11, a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces or a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. A former public servant may be:

- a. an individual;
- b. an individual who has incorporated;
- c. a partnership made of former public servants; or
- d. a sole proprietorship or entity where the affected individual has a controlling or major interest in the entity.

"lump sum payment period" means the period measured in weeks of salary, for which payment has been made to facilitate the transition to retirement or to other employment as a result of the implementation of various programs to reduce the size of the Public Service. The lump sum payment period does not include the period of severance pay, which is measured in a like manner.

"pension" means, a pension or annual allowance paid under the Public Service Superannuation Act (PSSA), R.S., 1985, c.P-36, and any increases paid pursuant to the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act, R.S., 1985, c.S-24 as it affects the PSSA. It does not include pensions payable pursuant to the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act, R.S., 1985, c.C-17, the Defence Services Pension Continuation Act, 1970, c.D-3, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pension Continuation Act, 1970, c.R-10, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act, R.S., 1985, c.R-11, the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act, R.S., 1985, c.M-5, and that portion of pension payable to the Canada Pension Plan Act, R.S., 1985, c.C-8.

Former Public Servant in Receipt of a Pension

As per the above definitions, is the Bidder a FPS in receipt of a pension?

Yes () No ()

If so, the Bidder must provide the following information, for all FPS in receipt of a pension, as applicable:

- a. name of former public servant;
- b. date of termination of employment or retirement from the Public Service.

By providing this information, Bidders agree that the successful Bidder’s status, with respect to being a former public servant in receipt of a pension, will be reported on departmental websites as part of the published proactive disclosure report.

Work Force Reduction Program

Is the Bidder a FPS who received a lump sum payment pursuant to the terms of a work force reduction program?

Yes () No ()

If so, the Bidder must provide the following information:

- a. name of former public servant;
- b. conditions of the lump sum payment incentive;
- c. date of termination of employment;
- d. amount of lump sum payment;
- e. rate of pay on which lump sum payment is based;
- f. period of lump sum payment including start date, end date and number of weeks;
- g. number and amount (professional fees) of other contracts subject to the restrictions of a work force reduction program.

For all contracts awarded during the lump sum payment period, the total amount of fees that may be paid to a FPS who received a lump sum payment is \$5,000, including the Goods and Services Tax or Harmonized Sales Tax.

Name

Signature

Date

G) JOINT VENTURES

In the event of a proposal submitted by a contractual joint venture, the proposal shall be signed by either all members of the joint venture or a statement shall be provided to the effect that the signatory represents all parties of the joint venture. The following will be completed if applicable:

1. The Bidder represents that the bidding entity is/is not (delete as applicable) a joint venture in accordance with the definition in paragraph 3.

2. A Bidder that is a joint venture represents the following additional information:

(a) Type of joint venture (mark applicable choice):

- Incorporated joint venture
- Limited partnership joint venture
- Partnership joint venture
- Contractual joint venture
- Other

(b) Composition (names and addresses of all members of the joint venture)

3. Definition of joint venture

A joint venture is an association of two or more parties who combine their money, property, knowledge, skills, time or other resources in a joint business enterprise agreeing to share the profits and the losses and each having some degree of control over the enterprise. Joint ventures may be carried on in a variety of legal forms divided into three categories:

- (a) The incorporated joint venture;
- (b) The partnership venture;
- (c) The contractual joint venture where the parties combine their resources in the furtherance of a single business enterprise without actual partnership or corporate designation.

4. The joint venture team arrangement is to be distinguished from other types of Contractor arrangements, such as:

- (a) Prime Contractor, in which, for example, the purchasing agency contracts directly with a Contractor (prime) who acts as the system assembler and integrator, with major components, assemblies and subsystems normally subcontracted;
- (b) Associated Contractor, in which for example, the purchasing agency contracts directly with each of the major component suppliers and performs the integration tasks or awards a separate contract for this purpose.

5. If the Contract is awarded to an unincorporated joint venture, all members of the joint venture shall be jointly and severally responsible for the performance of the Contract.

Name

Signature

Date

H) FEDERAL CONTRACTORS PROGRAM

Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity - Bid Certification

By submitting a bid, the Bidder certifies that the Bidder, and any of the Bidder's members if the Bidder is a Joint Venture, is not named on the Federal Contractors Program (FCP) for employment equity "FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid" list (http://www.labour.gc.ca/eng/standards_equity/eq/emp/fcp/list/inelig.shtml) available from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada - Labour's website.

Canada will have the right to declare a bid non-responsive if the Bidder, or any member of the Bidder if the Bidder is a Joint Venture, appears on the "FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid" list at the time of contract award.

PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT EQUITY - CERTIFICATION

I, the Bidder, by submitting the present information to the Contracting Authority, certify that the information provided is true as of the date indicated below. The certifications provided to Canada are subject to verification at all times. I understand that Canada will declare a bid non-responsive, or will declare a contractor in default, if a certification is found to be untrue, whether during the bid evaluation period or during the contract period. Canada will have the right to ask for additional information to verify the Bidder's certifications. Failure to comply with such request by Canada will also render the bid non-responsive or will constitute a default under the Contract.

For further information on the Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity visit HRSDC-Labour's website.

Date: _____ (YYYY/MM/DD) (If left blank, the date will be deemed to be the bid solicitation closing date.)

Complete both A and B.

A. Check only one of the following:

- A1. The Bidder certifies having no work force in Canada.
- A2. The Bidder certifies being a public sector employer.
- A3. The Bidder certifies being a federally regulated employer being subject to the Employment Equity Act.
- A4. The Bidder certifies having a combined work force in Canada of less than 100 employees (combined work force includes: permanent full-time, permanent part-time and temporary employees [temporary employees only includes those who have worked 12 weeks or more during a calendar year and who are not full-time students]).
- A5. The Bidder has a combined workforce in Canada of 100 or more employees; and
- A5.1. The Bidder certifies already having a valid and current Agreement to Implement Employment Equity (AIEE) in place with HRSDC-Labour.

OR

A5.2. The Bidder certifies having submitted the Agreement to Implement Employment Equity (LAB1168) to HRSDC-Labour. As this is a condition to contract award, proceed to completing the form Agreement to Implement Employment Equity (LAB1168), duly signing it, and transmit it to HRSDC-Labour.

B. Check only one of the following:

B1. The Bidder is not a Joint Venture.

OR

B2. The Bidder is a Joint Venture and each member of the Joint Venture must provide the Contracting Authority with a completed annex Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity - Certification. (Refer to the Joint Venture section of the Standard Instructions)

Name

Signature

Date

APPENDIX “F”
Security Requirements Check List (SRCL)

(See attached SRCL)