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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Agriculture Teacher from Sardis Secondary
Receives Outstanding Teacher Award from BC Agriculture in the Classroom**

ABBOTSFORD, BC – BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC) is pleased to announce Joe Massie as the recipient of the 2014 BCAITC Outstanding Teacher Award. The award was presented to Massie for demonstrating outstanding leadership and innovation in agriculture education.

Since 2004, nine awards have been given out. Previous recipients received the award for their work with Spuds in Tubs, Take a Bite of BC, school greenhouse programs, and an entire school approach to agriculture education.

Massie is a Physics and Chemistry teacher at Sardis Secondary in Chilliwack, where he also teaches a course called Sustainable Resources, which connects students to agriculture. Massie holds classes in the school's greenhouse throughout the year, growing annual plants with his students for the school's spring plant sale, as well as tomatoes and bell peppers.

During the summer months he instructs a course in partnership with UBC and BC Agriculture in the Classroom, called Agriculture in the Curriculum, Summer Institute. It is a 3 credit course giving teachers theoretical and practical knowledge on incorporating agriculture into their curriculum.

Massie is also developing a 5 acre parcel of land in Chilliwack where his students will grow corn, berries, pumpkins and more. There are multiple age groups involved, including university, high school, and elementary students within the community.

"Joe has been an outstanding ambassador for our organization and a true champion for agriculture in the community," said Lindsay Babineau, Executive Director of BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, "I can't imagine a better or more deserving person to receive this award."

The award was presented to Massie at this year's Agri-Food Industry Gala by BCAITC Board president, Sarah Ryall. Congratulations to Joe Massie!

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