



## IOIA appoints Drew Gourdie as Business Development Director

*Business veteran joins IOIA to support organization's future growth*

**Broadus, Montana (August 15, 2023)** – Margaret Scoles, Executive Director of IOIA, today announced the appointment of Drew Gourdie to the newly created role of *Business Development Director*.

“Investment in new personnel will help us optimize our work, create new programs, and enhance existing offerings,” Scoles recently noted. “Targeted investment is crucial in fulfilling IOIA’s mission within the organic community. We believe Drew’s expertise in business development will make both immediate and longer-term contributions to our work.”

Mr. Gourdie is a seasoned leader with more than 30 years of experience across multiple sectors, including the past 14 years in the natural products industry. Having spent the past decade focused on organic production, his work has supported a number of successful brands in the natural space.

“This new role is a great opportunity to combine my years of business development work, with my passion for the organic industry,” he explained. “I’ve proudly served both large and smaller brands in organic manufacturing, and see this as a logical evolution of my career path... to make my mark at an industry level.”

With several years of inspection experience, Mr. Gourdie knows well the challenges that confront inspectors of all walks. “I’m just shy of 200 on-site and hybrid inspections, so I’ve seen first-hand a variety of processors in food and beverage, including aquaculture,” he noted. “From egg operations, to beekeepers, to salmon farms, organic operators have unique processes that require a knowledgeable person to ensure they are adhering to the regulations.”

### **About IOIA:**

IOIA is an organization dedicated to addressing issues relevant to organic inspectors, who are the eyes and ears of Certification Bodies around the world. The company has global impact in supporting quality organic inspector training and in the promotion of consistency and integrity in the certification process.

Building capacity in human capital is a key growth strategy for the IOIA in 2023. For non-profits, capacity building is a focused process to increase operational effectiveness through short-term projects, longer strategic initiatives, or in this case, the recruitment and hiring of key staff.

For more information, please visit <https://www.ioia.net/>

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