

## **HEMPTOWN TO COLLABORATE WITH NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA**

### **CLOTHING PRODUCER ENTERS BIOTECH INDUSTRY AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP ENZYME PROCESS TO MANUFACTURE HEMP FABRIC**

Vancouver, May 18, 2004 /Newswire/ -- Hemptown Clothing Inc. (NASD OTCBB: HPTWF), a leading provider of environmentally responsible clothing, is pleased to announce that it has entered into a collaboration with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) on the development of a patentable enzyme technology process that may see hemp fibers replace cotton worldwide.

By collaborating in this manner, Hemptown also expands its development and expertise into the Biotechnology Industry.

The collaboration between Hemptown and NRC is intended to produce hemp clothing fabric that would match cotton in price, while eliminating the tons of pesticides and enormous water consumption required by cotton. Furthermore, industrial hemp is 5 times as efficient as the same acreage of forestry in the conversion of atmospheric carbon dioxide into plant materials for industrial application, thus allowing the latter to remain as the reservoir of the greenhouse gases.

In addition to the textile sector, the availability of clean hemp fibers at reasonable cost will enable widespread application in industry to provide rigidity for plastics as vehicle interior trim with reduced weight and ease of recycling, and in buildings as a natural insulator, as compared to the traditional fiberglass.

An efficient enzyme system will give a competitive advantage to Hemptown or to any third party companies to whom it licenses the process. This ground-breaking fiber technology is expected to be delivered into the market within the next 3 years.

“Hemptown was identified as an ideal partner for NRC,” said Scott Ferguson, Business Development Officer for the NRC Institute for Biological Sciences. “Their understanding of the Hemp Fiber industry, coupled with their stability and strong corporate profile, made them an excellent candidate with which to help develop this new generation biotechnology. We are excited about the prospects for this collaboration, which could ultimately revolutionize the apparel industry as well as many other industrial applications.”

“If we are able to provide our environmentally friendly hemp fiber activewear, at a price that is equal or better than that of current cotton products, there is no reason for consumers to not make the smart choice.” commented Hemptown Clothing President, Jason Finnis. “We are enthused about the initial developments, and intend to use this technology to launch a proper hemp textile industry in Canada, as well as all other industrial hemp growing nations around the world. The potential market for the use and

licensing of this hemp production technology worldwide may be in the billions of dollars.”

### **About Hemptown**

Hemptown Clothing Inc. is the world’s largest hemp T-shirt apparel brand and sells a line of hemp/cotton activewear: T-shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps to wholesalers, retailers and consumers. Hemptown is also involved in ongoing research and development of quality and conservation-based textile technology, working vertically to enhance its products and the benefits they provide to crop farmers, consumers and the environment.

Please visit [www.hemptown.com](http://www.hemptown.com)

### **About NRC**

Recognized globally for research and innovation, NRC is a leader in the development of an innovative, knowledge-based economy for Canada through science and technology. The NRC Institute for Biological Sciences has more than 40 years of experience in enzyme research. A successful example of collaboration with Canadian industry is the NRC modified xylanase for pulp bleaching. Iogen Corporation commercially launched the first product in 1997. This enzyme bleaches more than 4.5 million tons of pulp annually, with annual sales reaching million of dollars.

Please visit [www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)

This release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, Section 21E of the Exchange Act of 1934 and the provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and is subject to safe harbor created by these sections. Actual results may differ materially due to a number of risks, including, but not limited to, technological and operational challenges, needs for additional capital, changes in consumer preferences, risks associated with: market acceptance and technological changes; dependence on manufacturing and material supplies providers; international operations; and competition.

*SOURCE: HEMPTOWN CLOTHING INC.*

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