

BC Food Processors Association

Great Food  Great Living

MEMBER NEWSLETTER
September 8, 2006

Welcome to the newsletter for BC Food Processors Association members. Please send feedback and story ideas to the BCFPA office.

New Members

- All Seasons Mushrooms Inc.

For a full list of current members, see: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/members.html>.

New BCFPA Executive Director

The BC Food Processors Association is pleased to announce the appointment of new Executive Director, Anthony Toth, effective September 5, 2006. Mr. Toth lives in the lower mainland and is former Executive Director of the BC Wilderness Federation. Tony has extensive experience with association management and government relations. Read the full news release at: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/Announcements.html>.

Tax Tips

As health Insurance costs rise, be mindful of the advantages that Private Health Services Plans (PHSP) afford. A PHSP, similar to insurance plans, enables an employer to provide a wide range of health and dental benefits to their employees. It is also a tax plan and an effective way to reduce your health insurance costs.

Here are the financial benefits:

- An employer's contributions to a PHSP are tax deductible.
- Income received by an employee to pay medical expense, e.g. for a new pair of eye-glasses, is tax free income.
- A PHSP can provide the same coverage to employees as health insurance and costs 10 to 20 percent less. A company with 35 employees might pay \$66,000 per annum of health insurance premiums. An equivalent PHSP will cost \$53,000 - \$58,000, saving the company \$8,000 to \$13,000.

The world of health benefits is evolving fast as the concept of health care and the costs covered by health insurance move from pure palliative care towards illness prevention and healthy living. The BCFPA is organizing a Tax Tips breakfast seminar which will include the latest trends in health benefits planning. To reserve your space please email Julie Labelle at julie.labelle@bcfpa.ca.

Tax Tips information is provided courtesy of BCFPA member Revenue Services Group

Grocery Showcase West 2007

The BCFPA has reserved 2 booths for 2007 to showcase the BCFPA and member products under the umbrella of the Association. If you would like to participate, contact the BCFPA office today at 250-356-1660 or Julie.labelle@bcfpa.ca.

Guelph Food Technology Centre Food Safety Courses

A new schedule of Guelph Food Technology Centre food safety courses is available for fall 2006, including a series of lower cost "Basics" on product development, bringing a product to market and processing food safely. **Courses are filling up, so register today!** All BCFPA members receive reduced rates. For course descriptions and registration information, see: http://www.bcfpa.ca/GFTC_training.html.

Energy Efficiency: With Natural Gas It's Win, Win

Saving energy isn't just good corporate citizenry, it's good for your bottom line. At Terasen Gas, we help make it easy.

To learn more, visit <http://www.terasengas.com/LargeIndustrial/EnergyEfficiency/default.htm> or call us **Now** to discuss a free on-site energy assessment. Qualified professionals will review your plant processes, equipment, and operational procedures, and provide a short report outlining remedial actions, potential savings, and payback period. You could be our next energy efficiency success story!

Terasen Gas Inc., Commercial & Industrial Energy Services
Phone: 604-576-7135; Email: commercial.energy@terasengas.com

MTAP Update

The Meat Transition Assistance Program (MTAP) is making good progress, with 3 applications approved for funding by the Steering Committee. Eighteen applications have been submitted in total, and the program is gaining momentum as we near the application deadline of September 30, 2006. To encourage more applications, the BCFPA recently brought on 3 new contractors to contact processors about the program and assist them with the licensing and permitting processes. For more information on the MTAP, see: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/mtap.html>.

UPCOMING

- **September 12, Safe and Effective NHPs – Finding the Evidence – What are Clinical Trials Anyway?** Website: <http://www.bcfn2.com/>.
- **September 11-15, GMP/HACCP/Internal Audit Training**, Presented by SGS. BCFPA members receive a \$25 credit after successful course completion. Contact: Gerry Gerbasi at 604-986-8024 or gjgassociates@shaw.ca
- **September 15, Exporting to Mexico Seminar**. September 8 is the deadline for registration. Website: <http://www.canadaexportcentre.com/events/index.html>.

For more industry events, see: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/industryEvents.html>

NEWS

- **Greenhouse Open House** – The BC Greenhouse Growers' Association is hosting an open house at member facility in Delta. For more information, see: <http://www.bcgreenhouse.ca/openhouse.html>.
- **Processing Space Needed!** A Vancouver food processor is seeking kitchen space to produce a healthy gourmet vegetarian line of spreads, pates and dips. The space must be at least 300sqft and a stove/top is not immediately required. For more information, contact Suzi Mikaelian at suzi@legourmandc3.com or 778-836-4118.
- **BC Agriculture Plan Public Meetings**. A series of public consultations across BC are scheduled throughout September. For more information, see: <http://www.harvesttohome.bc.ca>.