

BC Food Processors Association

Great Food  Great Living

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

December 1, 2006

New Members

- Association of BC Winegrowers

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

Breakfast Seminar Update

Your Competitors Are Receiving Refunds, Are You?

On November 28, BCFPA persisted through the cold weather to present this breakfast seminar on opportunities to increase business tax credits and access to capital. More than 50 attended the seminar, and the feedback was very positive. There were numerous practical questions from the audience and the instruction session was followed by a very active networking session. Sincere thanks to the Communications and Marketing Committee for organizing this informative and valuable event. Any registrant who did not receive event materials can obtain electronic copies of the material by contacting Julie Labelle at the BCFPA office at Julie.labelle@bcfpa.ca.

Thanks to Reliance Insurance for sponsoring this event. Reliance Insurance is a BCFPA member, offering an array of risk management services, including Product Liability Liability Reviews and Media Communications Crisis Recovery Training. For more information, contact Heather Scheibal at 604-251-8320 or hscheibal@reliance.bc.ca.

Tax Tips: Tax Deductible Year End Party

Usually when a company provides meals to an employee, the cost of the meal is considered taxable income to the employee.

Six times a year a company may provide meals and entertainment for all work staff at a special event without the employee being taxed on the cost of the meal or entertainment. However, be sure to limit the cost of the special event to \$100 per employee. Be careful to also limit or eliminate ancillary costs, such as transportation home as they may be considered a taxable benefit.

For more information see the CRA Interpretation Bulletin IT-470R, *Employees Fringe Benefits* at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tp/it470r-consolid/it470r-consolid-99e.txt>.

Tax Tips is provided courtesy of Revenue Services Group

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

BCFPA Activity Update

- On November 21 Tony Toth had a very productive meeting with Nelson Barsi, Don Wilde and Candace Appleby of the Small Scale Food Processor Association in Nanaimo.
- On November 23, Tony Toth toured the Leduc Food Processing Development Centre in Alberta.
- Tony Toth met in Calgary with the CEO and program Directors of the Alberta Food Processors Association on November 24.
- Tony Toth met in Calgary with federal Agriculture and Agri-food Minister Chuck Strahl on November 25.
- MIES Project Manager Don Davidson participated in a teleconference update on November 27 with Ministry of Agriculture Regional Agrolologists to discuss meat industry and waste disposal issues.

UPCOMING

- **December 6, Standard Operating Procedures, Vancouver.**
Website: <http://www.bcf2.com/html/events.html> .
- **December 12, Value Chain Management Workshop**
The Vancouver Island Good Food Business Network presents this workshop to raise awareness of value chain principles on Vancouver Island the Gulf Islands. For more information, contact Frank Moreland at frank@ediblestrategies.com or 250-335-3001.

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

Job Postings

Two positions are available with Thrifty Foods, the largest employer on Vancouver Island and one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies for the past 3 years. A Production Manager is required to oversee the Thrifty Kitchens commissary production centre. A Manager of Employee Relations is sought to develop, implement and manage employee relations processes, programs and policies that will encourage a positive employee relations climate. Job descriptions are posted online at: <http://www.higginsinc.com/opportunities.html> . For more information, and to apply, contact Brenda LaRose at bhiggins@higginsinc.com or 204-257-9929.

INDUSTRY NEWS

- **BC Government Announces Lab for Animal and Human Health Protection**
A \$14.5 million Containment Level 3 lab will be built in Abbotsford to enable the province to respond to animal disease incidents. Read the news release at: http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2006AL0045-001389.pdf .
- **Farm Credit Canada Invests in Industrial Life Sciences fund.** FCC invested \$50million to create Avrio Ventures Limited Partnership, a venture capital fund to

further technology development in industrial bioproducts, food technology and nutraceutical ingredient businesses. Read the news release at:

http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/aboutus/media/news20061030_e.asp .

- **Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Accepting Applications.** Federal, provincial and local governments are investing over \$150 million to improve municipal and rural infrastructure with the goal to ensure that communities are sustainable, competitive and healthy centres of economic growth. January 31, 2007 is the application deadline. For details see: <http://www.canadabcmrif.ca/> .
- **Canada Explores Next Generation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Policy.** On November 14, federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture released a discussion paper and launched a consultation to discuss future food policy. For more information, see: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen> .
- **Seafood Reports Available** – The BC Seafood Alliance and Seafood Value Chain Roundtable released two benchmarking studies in October 2006: Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Benchmark Study and the Benchmarked Competitiveness Study of BC's Sea Urchin Fisheries. The reports can be downloaded from this website: <http://www.bcseafoodalliance.com/> .
- **Northwest Food Processors Association pursues VIP centre.** With support from the Oregon Innovation Council, the NWFPA aims to establish a \$3.6 million Visioning, Innovation and Productivity centre as part of a Cluster Initiative designed to revitalize the food processing industry in Oregon, Washington and Idaho states. For more information, see: <http://www.nwfpa.org/> .