

# BC Food Processors Association

Great Food  Great Living

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

December 15, 2006

## **SEASON GREETINGS**

The BCFPA Board of Directors, staff and contractors wish a happy holiday and best of the New Year to all BCFPA members, partner food sector organizations, provincial and federal civil servant partners, and all ministers, MLAs and MPs with whom we have had the privilege of working in 2006. We sincerely appreciate your time, support and insight, and look forward to another successful year in 2007!

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## ***New Members***

- Hudson Marketing Co. Ltd.

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

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## ***Tax Tips: Employers Insurance (EI) Rate Reduction***

Please be aware that EI premiums for 2007 have been reduced to the following:

- For Employees: the premium rate has been lowered to \$1.80 from its current level of \$1.87 per \$100 of insurable earnings.
- For Employers: the premium rate will be reduced to \$2.52 from \$2.62 per \$100 of insurable earnings.

The new rates will come into effect January 1, 2007. Maximum Insurable Earnings (MIE) rises by \$1,000 to \$40,000.

Tax Tips is provided courtesy of Revenue Services Group

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## ***Safety and Human Resources Committee Update***

The Safety and Human Resources Committee (SHRC) meets on a monthly basis to discuss industry issues related to workplace safety and human resources. The Committee has a number of projects underway, including the development of a safety orientation training video for food processing companies. The video is being produced with support from industry, WorkSafe BC and the Agri-Food Futures Fund. It will be complete in early 2007 and available for purchase from the BCFPA. The Committee is working on a series of human resources seminars for the BCFPA's 2007 AGM in spring. The Committee is also overseeing the development of a proposal for a Food Processing Industry Safety Council which will help reduce worker injury frequencies and durations, improve safety awareness, and reduce industry assessment rates by as much as 15%. For more information or to get involved, contact Lisa McGuire at [lisa.mcguire@bcfpa.ca](mailto:lisa.mcguire@bcfpa.ca) or see: [http://www.bcfpa.ca/do\\_safetyCommittee.html](http://www.bcfpa.ca/do_safetyCommittee.html) .

### ***Canadian Agri-Food Exporters Mission to the Middle East, Feb 15-22, 2007***

This trade mission will provide agri-food exporters with broad exposure to the growing Middle East market, specifically Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The dates are timed to coincide with the 2007 Gulfood show, the major food and hospitality industry exhibition in the region. Participants will receive reimbursements on travel costs following the mission. For more information, contact Wendy Hindle at 1-800-493-9767 or [whindle@foodbeveragecanada.com](mailto:whindle@foodbeveragecanada.com) .

Website: <http://www.foodbeveragecanada.com/Kuwait%20&%20UAE.htm> .

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### ***BCFPA Activity Update***

- On December 4 Tony Toth attended an Abbotsford session on how to generate a food processing company Commercialization Roadmap. The handouts will be available from Julie Labelle at 1-877-356-1660.
  - On December 4 Tony Toth participated in a government relations and communications strategy-setting conference call of the Network of Food Technology Development Centers.
  - On December 6 Lisa McGuire and Tony Toth held a highly productive meeting with Investment Agriculture Foundation Chair Bert Myles to discuss plans for a stronger working relationship between the two organizations and to express gratitude for funding from the Agri-Food Futures Fund for the BCFPA Safety Council feasibility study.
  - The BCFPA Board of Directors met in Burnaby on December 8. Key items discussed included finalization of a new strategic plan, new bylaws, and planning related to a Food Technology Development Centre.
  - On December 8 Gay Hahn, Robin Smith, Julie Labelle and Tony Toth attended a Burnaby meeting with representatives from UBC Food Information Service, BCIT, BC Bioproducts Association, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and the Small Scale Food Processor Association to coordinate activities to advance the prospects of a BC Food Technology Development Centre.
  - On December 12 Tony Toth met with consultant Don Maunders in North Vancouver to discuss the strategic needs of the Agri-food Partners in Healthy Eating initiative.
  - On December 14, Tony Toth attended an industry consultation in Toronto on the Next Generation of Agriculture Policy with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and industry representatives. BCFPA emphasized the need for regulatory reform, importance of the Agriculture Investment Foundation, and the need for a BC Food Technology Development Centre.
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### ***Job Postings***

- **Nature's Path Foods** has a number of positions open in its plant in Blaine, Washington. Canadians are invited to apply. For details see: [http://www.naturespath.com/about\\_us/careers#jobs](http://www.naturespath.com/about_us/careers#jobs)
- **Annie's Organic Grain and Flour Mill** is seeking an Operations Manager to oversee planning, scheduling and facilitation of production and management of production staff. For more information or to apply, contact [multigrain@anitasorganicmill.com](mailto:multigrain@anitasorganicmill.com) .

The BCFPA is developing a Job Board for posting industry employment opportunities. There will be a fee for advertising postings, with discounts for members.

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## **UPCOMING**

- **January 14-17, Northwest Food Manufacturing and Packaging Expo**  
The Northwest Food Processors Association presents this seminar and tradeshow in Oregon, Washington. Website: <http://www.nwfpa.org>

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

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## **INDUSTRY NEWS**

- **New Executive Director of Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.**  
Peter Donkers started his new position on December 8, 2006. Read the news release at: [http://www.iafbc.ca/pdf/latest.news/06\\_12\\_01\\_donkers.pdf](http://www.iafbc.ca/pdf/latest.news/06_12_01_donkers.pdf) .
- **Lesley Stowe Fine Foods Interview with CBC Radio.** On December 13, North By Northwest Cooking Club Host Sheryl MacKay will interview Lesley Stowe, of BCFPA member company Lesley Stowe Fine Foods, about the new cookbook, the Lesley Stowe Fine Foods Cookbook. The Interview will be held at Barbara-Jo's Books to Cooks in Vancouver, 1740 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, at 1:00 pm. Watch the CBC website for broadcast dates: <http://www.cbc.ca/bc/cookingclub/>
- **Western Canadian Function Food and Nutraceutical Network Elects New Chair.** The WCFN Board of Directors elected Ms. Kelley Fitzpatrick as new Chair for the 2007-08 term. For more information, see: <http://www.bcfn2.com>
- **Meat Industry Image Enhancement Project** – A group of Alberta organizations is working on a project to improve the image of the meat industry in the effort to promote meat cutting as a career choice. For more information, see the new website: <http://www.meatspecialists.ca/> .
- **BC Reports Strong Fish Health Strategy** – The BC government recently released a farmed fish health report showing that every active salmon farm has Fish Health Management Plans in place and that the regulatory regime is working. Read the news release at: [http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2006AL0046-001466.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2006AL0046-001466.pdf)