

BC Food Processors Association

Great Food  Great Living

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

January 5, 2007

2007 AGM Announcement

Planning is underway for the BCFPA's first in person Annual General Meeting and conference. In addition to the election of Directors, there will be a series of seminars, a trade show and networking opportunities. The event will take place in early spring – stay tuned for details.

BCFPA Launches New Strategic Plan

In December, the BCFPA Board approved a revised strategic plan to identify priorities and goals for the coming 3 years. The Association envisions that by the end of 2009, we will be the recognized leading supporter of the BC food industry. Our purpose is to achieve economic prosperity and sustainable safe production in a balanced BC food industry. Core strategies in the plan are:

- 1) The establishment of a solid structure and financial stability;
- 2) Membership recruitment;
- 3) Encouragement of an active membership to address sub-sector issues;
- 4) Industry enhancement initiatives including the Meat Industry Enhancement Strategy, a Food Technology Development Centre, a Job Board, a labour force development strategy, and encouraging environmentally sustainable practices;
- 5) Industry branding initiative to market BC food products;
- 6) Government relations to increase the industry's political strength.

View the full Strategic Plan online at: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/aboutus.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

Canada Cracks Down on Workplace Safety

A December 28 article in the Financial Post reports that Canadian companies and supervisors are facing higher fines for violating workplace safety laws. Statistics show that workplace-related accidents and deaths are on the rise, and a cross-country campaign is underway to improve enforcement of workplace-safety legislation. Workers' compensation boards are trying to further change public

attitudes so workplace injuries are viewed as unacceptable. In addition, provinces are appointing more inspectors, enforcing laws beyond the traditional high-risk sectors, encouraging the development of training programs and safety policies, and charging individuals and supervisors more often. Read the full article at: <http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/financialpost/story.html?id=82261a11-124a-4671-a644-d94585ee36dc>

Meat Transition Assistance Program Update

The BCFPA received 58 applications for Individual Plant Assistance under the Meat Transition Assistance Program (MTAP). Since the September 30, 2006 deadline, the BCFPA has been working to process applications so meat plants can proceed with plans to meet requirements of the new provincial Meat Inspection Regulation. The MTAP Steering Committee approved 24 applications for funding by December 2006. Help Desk staff is assisting plants with plans and documentation to prepare successful license applications and resolve questions about regulatory requirements. In addition, a number of Letters of Interest have been submitted for Community Solutions Funding. BCFPA is working to coordinate stakeholders within regions to be sure that projects are inclusive and do not duplicate efforts. We will be seeking to work with regions where there are service gaps and identified champions to direct community meat processing solutions. For more information on the MTAP, see the website: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/mtap.html>.

Tax Tips: Universal Child-Care Benefits

Parents of children under age six who receive the new \$100 per month universal child-care benefit (UCCB) should be aware that the Act is being amended so the parent can transfer the payment to the child without attribution applying to income earned on the amount transferred. In other words, the \$1,200 of income per year will be taxed as income to the child not income to the parent. If this is the child's only taxable income during the year the amount received will be tax free.

Tax Tips is provided courtesy of Revenue Services Group, experts on R&D tax credits. For information, contact David Kaplan at (604) 808-2403.

Outgoing Mission to San Francisco Winter Fancy Food Show Jan 19-24, 2007

Food Beverage Canada and Alberta Economic Development present this educational mission targeted to all specialty agri-food companies. The mission will include entrance to the Winter Fancy Food Show, an overview of the US specialty food market and networking opportunities. 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. Website: <http://www.foodbeveragecanada.com/WFFS%202007.htm>.

Avalon Dairy Breaks Ground for New Plant

On January 2 Gay Hahn and Tony Toth attended a sod-turning ceremony for Avalon Dairy's upcoming new plant at 7985 North Fraser Way in Burnaby. The new 40,000 square foot plant will expand the dairy's operation beyond the Vancouver facility on Wales Street. It is expected that the new plant will be open in 10 months. The event was covered by The Province, Burnaby Now and other newspapers. View a photo taken from the event at: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/Announcements.html>.

NSSC Food Processing Sector Council

The National Seafood Sector Council (NSSC) has received funding to complete a diagnostic assessment and overview of the Canadian food industry. Global Public Affairs/ Corporate Research Associates Inc. were hired to conduct the research, including cross-country forums. The objectives of the project are to:

- Undertake to complete a study to identify and analyze the human resource challenges affecting the food processing industry;
- Make tangible and precise recommendations on solutions and follow-up activities;
- Assist industry leaders to achieve a common, outward-looking vision that can be used as a strategic plan for the future, and;
- Assess the potential to expand the reach of the broader food processing industry to engage in discussions on the commonality of key human resource and skills issues and the development of a Human Resource Council for the broader industry.

On December 12-13, a number of food processors, human resources professionals, union representatives and Vice Presidents and CEOs attended a preliminary meeting in Ontario. BCFPA Chair Gay Hahn and Director Parimal Rana attended the meeting. There was excellent discussion and participants formed sub committees to oversee aspects of the initiative. Parimal Rana will set on a committee for "Qualitative and Quantitative Data Review" and Gay Hahn was nominated as Chair to the National Food Advisory Committee.

BCFPA Activity Update

- On December 18, Robin Smith, Fred Knoedler and Tony Toth met with Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Chuck Strahl in Chilliwack to discuss regulatory reform and the prospects for developing a BC Food Technology Development Centre.
- On December 19 Tony Toth met with BC Bio-Products Association Executive Director Glenn Rousseau to discuss cooperation to advance the prospects of a BC Food Technology Development Centre.
- On December 19 Tony Toth participated in a conference call of the National Network of Food Technology Centers to report on BCFPA contacts with both provincial and federal agriculture ministries.
- On December 19 Tony Toth represented BCFPA at the Christmas reception at constituency office of BC Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Hon. John Van Dongen.
- On December 20 Don Davidson and Tony Toth participated in a teleconference with Ministry of Health representatives to discuss opportunities to assist industry with transitioning to the new Meat Inspection Regulation.
- On December 20 Tony Toth was interviewed by Grocer Today Magazine for a feature article that will appear in February 2007.
- On December 21 Tony Toth represented BCFPA in Chilliwack at the joint Christmas reception of Environment Minister Hon. Barry Penner and Solicitor General Hon. John Les.
- On December 22 Don Davidson and Tony Toth met with BC Center for Disease Control Food Services Protection Director Larry Copeland to discuss means of expediting provincial licensing of meat processing plants.
- On January 2 Larry Copeland of the BC Center for Disease Control announced that a Class A license was issued to Kawano Farms of Prince George. Kawano slaughters and processes red meat products which are now approved to be shipped anywhere in British Columbia.

- On January 3 Gay Hahn and Tony Toth met in Vancouver with representatives of Branding Canada to discuss how the BCFPA can advise the Canadian agri-food branding process and how we might assist in delivery of practical branding education in BC.
- On January 4 Don Davidson, Kathleen Gibson and Tony Toth attended a multi-ministry conference call to discuss the evolution, need, and next steps of the BC Meat Inspection Regulation.
- On January 5/6 Gay Hahn and Tony Toth attended a meeting of the Agri-food Partners In Healthy Eating stakeholders to discuss local branding strategies.

UPCOMING

- **January 18, Farmland Forever! Planning for Agriculture in the Okanagan**
Website: http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca/index.cfm?Group_ID=3386
- **January 23, Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner**, Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club, Richmond, BC. The event will start at 6:00 pm with dinner served at 7:00 pm, followed by a recognition ceremony and live auction. RSVP by January 12 to rsvp@iafbc.ca or 250-356-1772.

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

INDUSTRY NEWS

- **Canada First to Track Organic Trade.** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched a four year pilot project to track trade data on organic products with the goal to help industry determine market potential. Read the news release at: http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/index_e.php?s1=n&s2=2006&page=n61214 .
- **New Funding for Bioproducts.** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced \$345 million for two new funding programs to help farmers and rural communities seize new market opportunities in the agricultural bioproducts sector. Read the news release at: http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/index_e.php?s1=n&s2=2006&page=n61220 .
- **Canadian Farmed Salmon Industry Benchmark Analysis for the US Market.** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada released this report comparing the performance of the Canadian farmed salmon industry to major competitors. View the report at: http://www.ats.agr.gc.ca/can/4220_e.htm .
- **Exporting to the United States.** The Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada released this new report targeted to small and medium sized firms wishing to export or already exporting to the US. See: [http://exportsource.ca/gol/exportsource/site.nsf/vDownload/USGuide/\\$file/USGuide2005_en.pdf](http://exportsource.ca/gol/exportsource/site.nsf/vDownload/USGuide/$file/USGuide2005_en.pdf) .
- **Position Paper on Health Claims Considered in Canada.** Health Canada released this position paper on five US Health Claims under consideration in Canada. Public comments will be accepted until January 31, 2007. For more information, see: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/label-etiquet/claims-reclam/position_paper-enonce_position_e.html
- **Tips for Doing Business in the US.** This report from The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service overviews differences between doing business in Canada and the US and suggestions for successful business relationships. Website: <http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/ie-en/DisplayDocument.jsp?did=5331> .
- **Canada announces New Organic Products Regulations.** Read the news release at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2006/20061222be.shtml> . Read the Regulation in the Canada Gazette at: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/2006/20061221-x6/html/extra-e.html> .