

BC Food Processors Association

Great Food  Great Living

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

March 2, 2007

New Members

- Unisource Canada Inc.

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

2007 AGM –Agenda Now Available!

An agenda and registration form is now available for the BCFPA's Annual General Meeting and professional development day. In addition to elections, there will be a series of professional development seminars, a trade show and networking opportunities. The event will be held on Friday April 27 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel in Burnaby. The Hon. Pat Bell Minister of Agriculture and Lands will be a keynote speaker. **Reserve your space today!** For more information, see the website: http://www.bcfpa.ca/AGM_2007.html .

Member Opportunity: Grocery Showcase West

On April 15-16, the BCFPA is hosting a booth at Grocery Showcase West (GSW) and we are inviting our members to participate! Up to four processor members can promote their companies and products under the umbrella of the BCFPA for only \$400 plus GST. Since booths at GSW cost from \$1500 to \$30,000, this is a great opportunity to showcase your high quality products to retail and food service companies. It also provides numerous networking opportunities. Each year about 250 companies participate in the trade show and thousands of representatives from the grocery and food industry attend. GSW is one of the largest food industry conventions and trade shows in British Columbia.

A coordinator has been hired to produce a high quality display for our members' products. Companies participating in the BCFPA booth will be required to provide their own volunteers, samples and promotional information for the duration of the show. For more information and to reserve your space contact Lydia Miller at (604) 984-7445 or lmiller@millertouch.com .

Certificate of Recognition Program

The BCFPA's Safety and Human Resources Committee is partnering with WorkSafeBC to develop the Partners in Injury and Disability Prevention program, also known as the Certificate of Recognition program, for BC's food processing industry. This voluntary incentive program is designed to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses. The program will require that participating companies implement standardized safety and return to work programs that meet certain criteria. If successful, a company will be entitled to a rebate of up to 15% on their WorkSafeBC premiums. For more information, see the web page: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/COR.html> .

BC Food Processors Reference Manual – Now Available!

The BCFPA is proud to make available the Third Edition of the BC Food Processors Reference Manual, a resource targeted to small scale food processing companies. The Manual includes information on all aspects of starting a food processing business in BC, including market research, business organization, human resources, insurance and trademarks, food safety and quality, manufacturing strategies, packaging and labelling, marketing, product development, pricing, promotion, distribution and financial planning. Thanks to the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Small Scale Food Processor Association for their help in updating the resource.

The Manual is available free for download from the BCFPA website at:
http://www.bcfpa.ca/Ref_Manual/Reference_Manual.html .

BCFPA Safety Orientation Video

The BCFPA's Safety and Human Resources Committee is developing an orientation video that introduces basic workplace health and safety issues for new employees in the food industry. The video will focus on four main industry safety issues: worker and employer responsibilities, emergency preparedness, safety programs, and workplace ergonomics. Information will be presented in a variety of formats, making for a unique educational product. The BCFPA plans to make DVD and VHS copies available in early spring 2007. The cost of the video has not yet been determined. If you are interested in purchasing a video, you can reserve a copy by contacting Julie Labelle at the BCFPA office at 250-356-1660 or julie.labelle@bcfpa.ca . Please specify whether you would like the DVD or VHS format. For more information, see the web page: http://www.bcfpa.ca/Safety_Video.html .

Tax Tips: Apprenticeship Tax Credits

The Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit (AJCTC) is a non-refundable tax credit equal to 10% of the eligible salaries and wages payable to eligible apprentices in respect of employment after May 1, 2006. The maximum credit is \$2,000 per year for each eligible apprentice.

An "eligible apprentice" is someone who is working in a prescribed trade in the first two years of their apprenticeship contract. This contract must be registered with a federal, provincial or territorial government under an apprenticeship program designed to certify or license individuals in the trade. For more information on the program visit the website: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/apprenticeship-e.html>.

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

BCFPA in Grocer Today

The BC Food Processors Association ran a feature article in the January/February 2007 issue of Grocer Today. The article provides an update on the Association, including its new Strategic Plan. Get your copy today!

March 1, Fish is Food Too Update

The BCFPA and the National Seafood Sector Council (NSSC) co-hosted a membership appreciation event in Vancouver to acknowledge the contributions of the BC seafood and food processing industries. The event was a success with over 100 people in attendance. BCFPA President helped welcome guests to the event and encouraged

non-members to join the BCFPA in the effort to help broaden the scope of the organization and take advantage of programs benefiting the entire food industry. The event also featured announcements on two new NSSC initiatives to support food and seafood processing companies across Canada. BCFPA President Gay Hahn is chairing the National Food Advisory Committee of the NSSC which is exploring ways to address the nation-wide human resource challenges of the whole Canadian food processing industry. Thanks to all our members who attended the event!

Food Donations for the Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is in need of partners in the processing industry to supply all types of items from toothpaste to food to help sustain community support programs. One facility in the Fraser Valley, the Paetzold Centre, provides a drug rehabilitation program for 168 people. The program includes nutritious meals that meet or exceed the Canada Health Guide. If your company would like to donate products to the Salvation Army, a Gift in Kind tax receipt can be issued for the current value of the donated gift. Food that is near to the expiry date or mislabeled is welcome. If the product has expired or is about to expire, the tax receipt will be adjusted to reflect the food value. The Salvation Army is also able to pick up donated product on short notice. For more information on becoming a partner with the Salvation Army, contact Ian Pratt, Director of Food Serves at the Paetzold Centre at 604-826-6681 ext248 or fdsrv_pc@telus.net, or contact your local Salvation Army. For more information on the organization, see the website: <http://bc.salvationarmy.ca/>.

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 February 20, President Gay Hahn and Vice President Robin Smith attended the Provincial Budget Lockup in Victoria.
 - On February 23-25, Help Desk Field Worker Abra Brynne participated in the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Organic Growers Association of BC in Armstrong.
 - On February 24, Help Desk Field Worker Shirley Hamblin attended the Skeena Regional Cattlemen's Association meeting in Houston.
 - On February 24, Kathleen Gibson made a presentation at the Pacific Community Networks Association meeting, focusing on BCFPA support programs and Community Solutions Funding under the Meat Transition Assistance Program.
 - Help Desk Field Worker Shirley Hamblin is attending the BC Rural Network AGM in Smithers today, March 2.
-

UPCOMING

- **March 1-2, BC Rural Network AGM**, Hudson's Bay Lodge, Smithers. MIES Help Desk Field Worker Shirley Hamblin will be in attendance with meat industry resources. Website: <http://www.bcruralnetwork.ca/node/120?PHPSESSID=cad5fce71d2e65263353165ecf15bdee> .
- **March 4-5, BC Food Service Expo**, BC Place Stadium, Vancouver. Western Canada's largest hospitality trade show. Website: <http://www.bcfoodserviceexpo.com/> .

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

INDUSTRY NEWS

- **BC Food Safety Initiative Implementation Work Plan.** The Implementation component of the FSI is in addition to outreach activities and is designed to help non-federally registered food processors to implement food safety systems. The Small Scale Food Processor Association is delivering the implementation program. Read the work plan at: <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/foodsafety/fsi.htm> .
- **New IAFBC Website** – the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC recently unveiled a new website to improve access to information on funding programs and the application process. Check it out at: <http://www.iafbc.ca/index.htm> .
- **IAF Award of Excellence.** The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) announced a new Award of Excellence for Innovation in Agriculture and Agri-Food as part of the IAF's 10th Anniversary celebrations. The Award will recognize an individual, organization or business that has made a creative and important contribution to B.C.'s agriculture and agri-food industry in the last three years. The award will be open to individuals resident in B.C. and Canadian-based organizations and businesses operating in B.C. For details, contact IAF at: 250-356-1672 or info@iafbc.ca .6
- **New Website for National Skills Initiative.** The National Seafood Sector Council (NSSC) launched a new website with information about the Canadian food processing industry and human resource tools and training resources. The website is part of a National Skills Initiative for the Food Processing Industry in Canada that seeks to identify HR challenges in the food processing industry and develop tools to address these challenges. For more information, see: <http://www.nssc.ca/food/english.html> .
- **US Food and Drug Administration Proposes Voluntary Standard for Labelling Gluten Free Foods.** Read the proposed rules at: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~acrobat/fr070123.pdf> .
- **Online Auction of Food Processing and Packaging Equipment.** The auction ends March 7 at 1:00 pm EST. To view the projects and make a bid, see the website: <http://www.goindustry.com/us/saledetails.asp?SaleID=6913&S=40> .