

BC Food Processors Association

Great Food  Great Living

MEMBER NEWSLETTER
March 16, 2007

2007 AGM and Conference –Earlybird Rate Extended!

This full day event on April 27 combines a business session in the morning, professional development seminars, trade show and networking opportunities. A high caliber line-up of speakers will cover topics related to human resources, finances, branding and marketing. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from the likes of BC Kosher, VanCity, advertising firm DDB and others. The event will be held at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel in Burnaby. The Hon. Pat Bell Minister of Agriculture and Lands will be a keynote speaker.

Sign up today - Earlybird rates have been extended to March 31st!

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.

Coordinator Lydia Miller 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. **Spaces are filling up fast so sign up today!** For more information contact Lydia at (604) 984-7445 or lmiller@millertouch.com .

Photos from March 1 Member Appreciation Night Available

The March 1 member appreciation night in Vancouver was a success with over 50 BCFPA member representatives in attendance, along with President Gay Hahn, Vice President Robin Smith and CEO Tony Toth. Photos from the event are available on the BCFPA website at: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/Announcements.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: Do You Pay GST on Imported Goods?

On December 19, 2006, the Canada Revenue Agency issued a draft policy statement entitled "Input Tax Credit Entitlement for Tax on Imported Goods." This document discusses eligibility for claiming an input tax credit (ITC) for GST paid on the importation of goods. Examples are provided to illustrate calculations.

If you are not already claiming ITC for imported products this information could save you 6 to 14 percent. The complete draft can be downloaded from: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gi/notice215/notice215-e.pdf>. The CRA is requesting input from importing companies by March 31, 2007.

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 at COABC AGM

On February 24-25, Help Desk Field Worker Abra Brynne attended the Certified Organic Associations of BC AGM and Annual Conference in Armstrong. Abra participated in a number of sessions, distributed meat industry resources and was available to discuss regional needs for slaughter and processing. She met with groups interested in developing slaughter facilities to provide advice on plan development and funding under the Meat Transition Assistance Program. Four Field Workers with the Meat Industry Enhancement Strategy's (MIES) Help Desk are available to assist meat plant operators to plan for building or upgrading slaughter facilities to the new provincial licensing standards. For more information on the MIES, see the web page: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/mies.html>.

Access Asia 2007: Pre-SIAL Asian Buyers Mission

March 22, 2007

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in partnership with Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and the Canada China Business Council, is bringing 30 qualified Asian food and beverage buyers to Vancouver to meet with Western Canadian agri-food exporters. Companies will have the opportunity to present products to buyers in person in a table top display format at the Fairmont Hotel Waterfront on Thursday March 22. **March 16 is the deadline to register and space is limited.** For more information, please contact Sharan Evani (by phone at 604-666-2861 or email evanis@agr.gc.ca) or Jeffrey Lang (by phone at 604-666-1066 or email langjd@agr.gc.ca).

BCFPA Activity Update

- Help Desk Field Worker Shirley Hamblin attended the BC Rural Network AGM in Smithers today, March 2.
- On March 7, Tony Toth, Don Davidson and Kathleen Gibson participated in a teleconference with a number of government agencies to discuss progress with plants seeking licenses to operate BC meat slaughter facilities.

- On March 13, Tony Toth and Robin Smith attended a meeting with the Agriculture Plan Liberal Caucus Committee to provide feedback for developing a first draft report on the Agriculture Plan and public consultations.
- On March 13, Tony Toth held meetings in Victoria with Ministry of Agriculture and Lands staff, Minister of Agriculture and Lands Hon. Pat Bell and NDP Agriculture Critic Corky Evans.
- On March 15, Tony Toth and Don Davidson attended the BC Agriculture council Annual General Meeting in Abbotsford.
- Today, March 16, Kathleen Gibson is attending a workshop in Victoria to answer questions related to livestock production and processing in BC, Cooking up a Storm: Contemporary Legal Issues in Food Production and Distribution.
- Today, Help Desk Field Worker Shirley Hamblin is attending the seminar, On a Roll with Agriculture, in Quesnel.
- Today BCFPA Directors met in Richmond for a regular Board meeting.

JOB POSTINGS

- Quality Assurance Manager and Operations Manager – Bakemark, a Vancouver manufacturer and supplier of bakery food and ingredients is seeking to fill two positions in the Vancouver area. For more information contact Caldwell Partners at Vancouver@caldwell.ca. Full job descriptions can be accessed in the "For Candidates" section of the website: <http://www.caldwell.ca/>.

If you have a posting for the BC food industry, please send it to the BCFPA office (info@bcfpa.ca) for inclusion in the member newsletter.

UPCOMING

- **March 22-23, Meeting of Food Industry Associations.** The National Seafood Sector Council organized this meeting to present a national skills development research initiative and determine how Associations can contribute. BCFPA CEO Tony Toth and President Gay Hahn will be participating. Website: http://www.nssc.ca/food/activities_e.html#activityb.
- **March 26, Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide.** Health Canada presents this presentation on the new Food Guide. The session will take place from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Crystal Ballroom, 6083 McKay Ave, Burnaby, BC. Participation is free but you must RSVP by March 21 to denise_gilby@hc-sc.gc.ca or 604-666-4628.
- **March 27, BC Food Protection Association Speakers' Evening.** Guest speakers Jim Strausz of Strauss Herbs and Lance Hill of Health Canada will make presentations on Regulatory Frameworks and Regulations for food and natural health products. Website: <http://www.bcfpa.net/SubPages/Events/NextEvent.htm>
- **April 12-19, BC Food Safety Initiative workshops: A BC HACCP Plan.** The Interior Health Authority presents these free workshops to introduce a provincial plan for Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points to small provincially licensed food processors. Workshops will be held in Kelowna, Penticton and Vernon. Participation is free but you must RSVP to Judi Ekkert at 250-980-5080 or fsi@interiorhealth.ca

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

INDUSTRY NEWS

- **BCFPA-NSSC Member Appreciation night** – photos from this March 1 event are now available on the Announcements page of the BCFPA website. See: <http://www.bcfpa.ca/Announcements.html> .
- **New BC Cookbook Launched** – The BC Chef's Association unveiled a new cookbook, entitled "Hot Chefs, Fresh Plates" during a cook-off at the BC Foodservice Expo in Vancouver. Read the news release at: http://www.iafbc.ca/what_s_new_or_media/documents/07-03-04_CookbookLaunch.pdf .
- **Canada Receives Preliminary Categorization as Controlled Risk Country for BSE.** The World Organization for Animal Health made a preliminary recommendation that Canada be categorized as a Controlled Risk Country for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. News release: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2007/20070309e.shtml>
- **CFIA Launches Feed Ban Awareness Campaign** – The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is distributing information resources, posting public notices and scheduling technical workshops to raise awareness of new safeguards intended to accelerate the elimination of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, from Canadian cattle. News release: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2007/20070315e.shtml> .
- **\$39.8 Million to Implement Enhanced Feed Ban in Alberta** - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced new funding to help the Alberta meat industry adapt to the CFIA's enhanced feed ban. Read the news release at: http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/index_e.php?s1=n&s2=2007&page=n70312a .
- **\$1.9 Million Invested in Agricultural Research Projects in BC** - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced new funds for agriculture research in BC. News release: http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/index_e.php?s1=n&s2=2007&page=n70312