

BC Food Processors Association

Great Food  Great Living

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

August 29, 2007

Nutrition Labelling Notice from CFIA -

December 12, 2007 is the deadline for compliance with the *Food and Drug Regulations* regarding nutrition labelling, nutrient content claims and diet-related health claims. After this date, all prepackaged food products sold in Canada must comply with the applicable nutrition labelling requirements. For more information please see: [Canadian Food Inspection Agency Letter](#)

Co-packing Opportunities

We've had several enquiries concerning co-packing opportunities. One is a small processor looking for a small to medium size processor running a bottling line: to hot pack in jars. Another is from a community group, Active Communities Westshore in Victoria, which is interested in packing sliced fruit in 30 gram paper or plastic packages. Please contact Donna at BCFPA info@bcfpa.ca for more information on both opportunities.

Human Resources Skills Development Canada

Human Resources Skills Development Canada contacted us to conduct interviews of a variety of occupations for the Essential Skills/Workplace Literacy Initiative. As part of the project, Terry Benjamin will be interviewing **Chemical Technologists and Technicians**, to gather data on how essential skills such as reading, writing, document use, numeracy, thinking skills, oral communication, continuous learning, working with others and computer use are used in the day to day workplace. For further information visit the website at www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/essentialskills. The specific job titles she is looking for are: biochemistry technologist, chemical analyst, chemical laboratory analyst, quality control technician – chemical processing, quality control technician – food processing, handwriting expert – forensics, nuclear magnetic resonance chemical technician, fuel technician, forensic examiner – alcohol and food technologist. There is a \$100.00 honorarium paid to the interviewee. If you are interested please contact her at tbenjamin@shaw.ca

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The BCMAL summer newsletter is now available: [BC Agrifoods Newsletter Summer \(pdf\)](#)

Upcoming Conferences

2007 IFE Americas Food and Beverage Show and Conference - Miami Beach - October 29-31, 2007

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is inviting Canadian companies to exhibit in the Canadian Pavilion at the 10th Annual Americas Food and Beverage Show and Conference which will be held October 29-31, 2007 in Miami Beach, Florida. The Americas Food and Beverage Show provides a great opportunity for companies to interact with retailers and food service buyers from the US and all of the Caribbean, Latin America and South America. Miami serves as the sales and distribution center

for food and beverage products transiting to these markets. There will also be Specialty Pavilions for Organic and Natural Food Products and Alcoholic & Non-Alcoholic Beverages. Please note the web-site brochure www.americasfoodandbeverage.com for the Invitation Letter and Registration Form. There is limited space in the Canadian Pavilion and confirmation will be on a first-come first-served basis.

News

On August 14, the Honourable Gerry Ritz, MP Battlefords–Lloydminster (Saskatchewan) was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board replacing Chuck Strahl. An additional important change is that the Hon. Stockwell Day, MP Okanagan Coquihalla is the new senior political minister for BC.

HACCP Training

SGS Canada Inc. Food Safety Services is offering HACCP training September 17-21, 2007 in Surrey (Cloverdale). The \$875 (GST included) cost includes manuals and material, beverages and meals. For more information contact Gerry Gerbasi at 604-986-8024 or gjgassociates@shaw.ca or click here for program [details](#).

BCFPA Activity Update

- During Late July and early August MIES project Manager Don Davidson, MTAP Help Desk Coordinator Kathleen Gibson, the MIES/MTAP team, and Ministry of Environment specialists toured meat processors throughout the province to assist them with plans to comply with the new Ministry of Environment Slaughter and Poultry Processing Industry Waste Code of Practice regulations.
- On August 9, Board President Robin Smith, Board members Gay Hahn and Stan Rogers, and CEO Tony Toth attended a meeting with federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-foods, Chuck Strahl. We updated the Minister on the current feasibility study for a future BC Food and Bio-Products Technology Center, including the message that governments will be asked to fund the initial capital outlay. The Minister was generally very supportive. We discussed the Agriculture Policy Framework negotiations. We asked the Minister to try to arrange for greater provincial flexibility of expending federal program funds in BC. We informed the minister that the food processing industry is not very happy with the minimal amount of attention (1 page it seems) given thus far to the food processing industry in Canada in the interim draft report. We proposed that the Minister call a Canadian Food Processing Industry summit meeting about APF (in BC with the assistance of the BCFPA) before matters progress further at APF discussions. The Minister will actively consider holding a food industry summit event, as we suggested. We encouraged the Minister to continue his commercialization enhancement policy, but we also asked him to act to ensure that industry and industry associations be given a heightened role in accessing commercialization assistance programs. For us, this has immediate reference to the Agri-Opportunities program.
- On August 10 President Robin Smith, CEO Tony Toth and the MIES/MTAP team attended a multi-agency meeting hosted by the Ministry of Health concerning expediting support arrangements to help processors comply with the new Meat Inspection Regulations (MIR) which come into effect on September 30. Numerous

positive items were agreed to, including expedited payments out of the MTAP assistance funds and a province-wide coordinated communications plan about MIR.

- On August 13 the MIES/Help Desk group met in Richmond for a planning session to ensure that all applicant plants, prospects and related work are covered in the short-term as we approach the MIR implementation date of September 30.
- On August 16 President Robin Smith, Director Gay Hahn and CEO Tony Toth attended a meeting of stakeholders with the Agriculture Plan Government Caucus Committee in Abbotsford. The possible conclusions of the Committee were generally discussed and industry input was provided not only by the BCFPA but also by other important stakeholders such as the BC Agriculture Council.
- On August 20 CEO Tony Toth gave an interview to Country Life Magazine about the upcoming Meat Inspection Regulation.
- On August 21 BCFPA Vice President Dave Eto chaired a transitional meeting of the BCFPA Membership and Marketing Committee. New committee members Mike Boehm (KPMG), Chris Ball (Reliance Insurance), and Cecilia Yong (Edibles! BC) were welcomed and brought up to date on BCFPA marketing plans.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Do you have news you would like to share with industry? Call or e-mail Donna and we'll put a notice in the newsletter & on the BCFPA website 1-877-356-1660.