

BC Food Processors Association

Great Food  Great Living

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

October 24, 2007

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 the Federal Government Caucus in BC.

BCFPA at Union of BC Municipalities Conference – Sept 26, 27

The UBCM is the largest gathering of municipal officials in BC. The BCFPA booth was located next to Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC and BC Agriculture Council. BCAC graciously gave us *BC Gala* apples to distribute to delegates. BCFPA CEO Tony Toth and Donna Brendon were at the booth. BCFPA Director Moe Gill is an Abbotsford Council Member. Moe spent time at the booth during the conference.

Several districts stopped by the chat about opportunities for food processing in their area. Donna Barnett, Mayor of 100 Mile House, is interested in reopening a small food plant in her district. Call Mayor Barnett at 250-395-2434 ext. 229 or e-mail dbarnett@dist100milehouse.bc.ca for more details. Geoff Millar from the Cowichan Valley Regional District is promoting the district's small processors by offering culinary tours of the area – www.visit.cowichan.net. The Regional District is encouraging more food processors to locate in the Cowichan Valley.

BCFPA-BC Hydro PowerSmart energy management program

approved - The BCFPA Board of Directors approved an energy management service to members. Bench marking of industry usage will be established, companies will receive free advice on how to improve energy consumption, and financial assistance will be provided to implement energy savings programs.

BCFPA Safety Institute Approved

The BCFPA Board is delighted to announce that the long-awaited BCFPA Safety Institute is about to become a reality. The first level of essential support was to gain more than 50% industry support and that was achieved earlier this year. Now the WorkSafeBC Senior Executive Committee has approved the project and BCFPA is entering final contract negotiations right away.

Employee Safety DVD Wins Award

On October 18th, Lisa McGuire, BCFPA Health & Safety Director and four of the BCFPA Safety Committee members accepted the *Young and New Worker Innovation Award* for the DVD, *Employee Safety Orientation for the Food Industry*. This award is given by the Canadian Society of Safety Engineers (BC & Yukon). The award recognizes outstanding work done by companies in all sectors of industry. For more information on the DVD see the [BCFPA Safety & Human Resources Committee](#) section of the website. WorkSafe BC recently featured this DVD in *WorkSafe BC Magazine*.

Upcoming Workshops -

WorkSafeBC - Making it Safely Conference

When: November 20-21, 2007

Where: [Pacific Inn](#) 1160 King George Highway, White Rock B.C.

Cost: \$199 British Columbia's first-ever **Manufacturing it Safely Conference**, hosted by WorkSafeBC and proudly supported by leading safety organizations CSA and IAPA, will provide an opportunity to learn more about health and safety issues and prevention solutions for today's manufacturing industry. Delegates can expect two full days of discussion, dialogue, and debate between like-minded individuals. www.makingitsafely.com

Tax Tip – Courtesy of Revenue Services Group

A recent FCA ruling concluded that companies claiming tax credit for GST (all food processors) must meet all documentation requirements in order to make a claim. The FCA ruled that if the GST registrant claiming tax credit does not have the information required to claim the tax credit– in this case a valid GST registration number from the supplier and its proper name - then the registrant cannot claim a tax credit regardless of whether all other requirements are met. The CRA recently introduced an internet based GST registry system which allows a user to confirm a registrant's GST number and name.

Tax Tips is provided by Revenue Services Group, experts at claiming SR&ED refunds for product development and trials. Contact David Kaplan directly at 604-808-2403 or go to www.RevenueServices.ca

BCFPA Activity Update

- With the implementation of the new meat regulations on September 30th, CEO Tony Toth was interviewed by print and broadcast media – Corus Network/CKNW Radio, CBC national radio program *The Current*, Dawson Creek Daily News, North Valley Echo in Enderby, Nanaimo Daily News, Vancouver Sun, Victoria Times Colonist, and the Toronto Globe & Mail.
- In September and early October the MIES/Help Desk staff was busy traveling around the province to attend community information meetings

about the Meat Transition Assistance Program. Tony Toth, Meat Industry Enhancement Strategy Help Desk Coordinator, Kathleen Gibson, and MIES/MTAP Project Manager Don Davidson attended over 14 community meetings organized by the Interior Health Authority.

- On September 9th President Robin Smith and CEO Tony Toth attended the Avalon Dairy *Wales Days* celebration as well as Minister of Forests, Rich Coleman's annual Constituency Picnic. Every year, Avalon Dairy stages a large neighbourhood party.
- On September 20 CEO Tony Toth attended a community information meeting in Grand Forks about the new Meat Inspection Regulation. This very successful meeting resulted in a new Community Solutions application to build an abattoir in the area.
- On September 23 MIES/MTAP Program Manager Don Davidson attended a community meeting in Slocan and succeeded in reviving a dormant Community Solutions Application for a local abattoir.
- On September 26 CEO Tony Toth addressed the BC Cattlemen's Association Board in Prince George on the topic of the new Meat Inspection Regulation.
- On October 10th CEO Tony Toth presented a [BCFPA Brief](#) to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in Kelowna. The brief was very well received by the panel and by the media. A copy of the brief is available on the BCFPA Website.
- On October 9-11, Past President Gay Hahn, BCFPA board member Pieter Vanderpol, and CEO Tony Toth attended the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC 2008 Planning Session in Penticton.
- On October 16, CEO Tony Toth made a presentation at the provincial BC Hydro Power Smart Forum.
- On October 18 President Robin Smith and CEO Tony Toth attended a Victoria meeting of the Agricultural Policy Framework 2 BC Advisory Committee. We succeeded in getting provincial and federal support for a special food processing industry consultation, which has not been done yet. We also obtained reaffirmation of senior provincial support for our Food Technology Development Centre project.

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.