

[CLICK HERE FOR NEWS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS](#)

RESOURCES

- [BCCDC checklist for abattoir plan approval – item 3](#)
- [List of provincially licensed abattoirs – item 10](#)
- [Requirements for abattoir safety management systems - item 8](#)
- [BC's Meat Inspection Regulation](#)
- [Cattle and beef info](#)
- [Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative](#)
- [Canada-BC SRM Program](#)

NEWS FLASHES

- [Minister Polak's April 7, 2009 announcement](#)
- [Federal slaughter plant funding](#)
- [Briefing note for MLAs & candidates](#)
- [Special BCFPA membership offer for meat processors](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Provincial election May 12!!](#)
- [2009 Land Summit, May 20-22, Whistler](#)
- [BC Cattlemen's AGM, May 21-23, Kamloops](#)
- [Island Chefs Collaborative Local Food Festival, May 31, Victoria](#)

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Welcome to BCFPA's **BC Meating News**, providing information towards increasing livestock harvest and sales of high-quality, safe, BC-produced-and-processed meat products. This is a monthly publication of the Meat Industry Enhancement Strategy (MIES).

BCFPA meets with Ministers

On March 23, BCFPA reps met at the Legislature with Minister of Healthy Living and Sport Mary Polak, Minister of Agriculture and Lands Ron Cantelon, Minister of Community Development Kevin Krueger and their senior staff. Meat Processors Advisory Committee (MPAC) members Musa Ismail and Richard Yntema presented our key issues: enforcement and waste. We said the Meat Inspection Regulation (MIR) will only work with proper enforcement, and we asked for more resources to be allocated to Health Authorities. We also outlined severe problems being experienced by red meat processors due to collection and SRM handling costs. We asked for immediate emergency assistance and for increased efforts towards solutions for slaughter waste disposal. We also asked for an inter-ministry support group to facilitate collaboration between the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and Lands, the Agricultural Land Commission, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Regional Districts.

Minister Polak: new meat initiatives

On April 7 in North Vancouver, the Minister of Healthy Living and Sport announced ongoing support for BC's meat industry. The venue was the Ethical Kitchen, the storefront outlet for a new red meat facility near Alexis Creek. Minister Polak stressed the importance of protecting British Columbians' food sources from food- and animal-borne disease. She announced \$3 million in additional funds for MTAP and MIES. She committed to an increase in enforcement of the MIR and ticketing illegal slaughter. She also introduced a consultation process for small and isolated communities (specifically Powell River, Bella Coola and the Queen Charlotte Islands). In a post-announcement briefing for industry that afternoon, it was agreed that a joint strategic planning session would be scheduled for government senior managers and industry reps (MIES, MTAP, MPAC) by the end of April, to identify priorities for MIES and MTAP to pursue this fiscal year.

Expediting waste solutions

Waste disposal was noticeable by its absence in Minister Polak's presentation. The BCFPA asked for immediate response from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. This was provided in the post-announcement briefing by Larry Pedersen, Deputy Minister, who noted the urgent need for bridging assistance while developing longer-term waste disposal solutions. He suggested a proposal to the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative and promised to keep an eye on its progress.

Federal slaughter plant funding

The \$50 million in federal funds recently announced for slaughter plants will be for loans only, payable over 10 years, and will be directed to increased efficiency, not increased capacity. Funds will be for federally registered (not provincially licensed) facilities. For more information see sidebar.

Quesnel area mobile poultry project

Licensed mobile poultry slaughter for the Cariboo came a step closer to reality April 6 with the formal announcement of funding for the Cariboo-Central Interior Poultry Producers Association and their project based in Quesnel. Reps from federal and local government, Northern Development Initiative Trust, Community Futures and the BCFPA all spoke to their support of the project.

Briefing candidates re meat inspection

A briefing note regarding MIR, industry concerns and the BCFPA's role was circulated to all MLAs and to candidates for election with the three major parties. For more information see sidebar.

Join BCFPA, increase our reach!

Meat processors are encouraged to take advantage of a special membership offer. A nominal fee of \$10 will allow you limited BCFPA membership for a period of months. We need you as a part of the BCFPA and MPAC! Our members help build the industry and provide a clear, unified voice to government.

For further information

Visit our Web site at www.bcfpa.ca/mies.html

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