

Introduction by Dion Wiebe, President of Rosstown Natural Foods

I would like to personally welcome everybody that made this announcement possible and allowed Rosstown Natural Foods poultry processing plant to host this event today.

I would like to give special thanks to the **Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Development**, the Honourable Murray Coell, The Honourable Minister John Van Dongen and the work of the **B.C. Food Processors Association**.

Today's announcement will assist Rosstown Natural Foods in having a stable work force in a competitive processing industry and competitive labour market. Our staff consists of people from our local community and foreign workers. Our foreign workers were originally classified as an entry-level worker but with training and educating all of the foreign workers have integrated well into our company. Some of the workers have advanced their skill and taken on supervisory roles. Without the extension of the PNP program we would lose our trained staff and this would significantly disrupt operations and have tremendous financial impact on our company's operations.

I am proud of our team at Rosstown who have recognized the risk of an unstable work force and worked very efficiently and diligently to be a part of a solution that has great potential for the future.

With the expanded pilot project for foreign workers in the food processing industry all of Rosstown Natural Foods foreign workers will have the opportunity to accelerate the permanent residency process for themselves and their families. This is great news and brings excitement to many people in our organization and a lasting impact to families, our community and province for years to come.