



**Message from Honourable Murray Coell  
Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development**

**British Columbia Food Processors Association  
Rossdale Farms, Abbotsford  
Thursday October 30, 2008**

---

*The Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, sends his regrets on not being able to be here in person, but asked to pass along the following message:*

On behalf of the B.C. government, I would like to express sincere appreciation to every single individual working in a food processing occupation in our province – both residents of B.C. and temporary foreign workers.

Thanks to these workers, individual British Columbians can enjoy healthy, high quality, and local food products... and British Columbia can highlight food processing as its second largest manufacturing sector – generating \$6.7 billion a year.

Earlier this year, the BC Food Processors Association, on behalf of its members, asked government to expand its two-year, foreign worker pilot project under the Provincial Nominee Program to include certain food production and processing occupations.

Government approved this expansion because, like all of you here today, we are committed to ensuring that this sector achieves continued growth and remains competitive. By expanding the foreign worker pilot at this time, this sector will be in a better position to develop a permanent, reliable and stable workforce, and further develop export opportunities.

The BC Food Processors Association's approach to meeting present and future staffing challenges is designed to attract new immigrants while at the same time ensures that residents of B.C. have ample access to employment opportunities.

I congratulate the BC Food Processors Association on this common-sense approach to meeting the future workforce needs of the food processing sector.

Sincerely,

Murray Coell  
Minister

