

Remarks by Robin Smith, President of the BC Food Processors Association

On behalf of the food processors of BC, I want to express my thanks to Minister Van Dongen and the government of British Columbia for this announcement.

I am sorry that Minister Murray Coell is unable to be here today as it was his comprehension and quick action on this file that led to the inclusion of the Food Processing industries in the Provincial Nominee Program Pilot Project.

Expanding the pilot project means a lot to our industry. Now when foreign workers are trained and truly contributing to the success of their employers we will have the opportunity to retain them rather than starting over again. A more permanent, reliable and trained work force will contribute to more stability in the food processing industry.

The government's foresight will contribute to the economic growth of the BC food processor sector.

Finally on behalf of the trained foreign workers who leave their homelands and select British Columbia as the **Best Place on Earth** to work I thank the BC government for this initiative