

April 11, 2002

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

B.C. AGRI-FOOD TRADE COUNCIL

A British Columbia Agri-Food Trade Council will provide broad-based policy advice and industry input on the opportunities and challenges for B.C. posed by the ongoing WTO agricultural negotiations and other international and inter-provincial trade negotiations.

The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, the Honourable John van Dongen, has assigned 22 members to the council who reflect the full depth and breadth of B.C.'s agri-food sector.

Members serve on a voluntary and purely advisory basis. They hold a senior leadership role in the industry, either as the elected head of an industry organization or as President/CEO of an agri-food business, with demonstrated leadership in their sector.

Members of the Trade Council are assigned for a minimum two-year period.

The Trade Council will meet up to three times a year as needed, with the inaugural meeting expected in May.

British Columbia's agriculture and food sector has substantial and rapidly increasing international and interprovincial trade interests. Agriculture and food exports directly account for one-third of farm cash receipts and one-quarter of food industry shipments, and were worth more than \$1.4 billion in 2001, a 12% increase over the preceding year. British Columbia's interprovincial exports of agriculture, fisheries and food products are estimated to be worth a further \$1.3 billion. British Columbia is also a substantial importer and point of entry especially for foreign-origin food products, and has significant import interests.

For more information, please contact Bryant Fairley, Assistant Director and Senior Manager, Trade, Trade and Intergovernmental Relations Branch (250) 356-5814.

Membership List (updated March 1, 2005) available at
<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/trade/bcaftc.htm>