



July 5, 2001

Peace Value Added Food & Ag Association

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Peace River Agriculture Development Fund
Box 6641
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Project: "Small Scale Food Processing"

Dear Barry;

I am enclosing an expense & income statement along with the receipts for the project "Small Scale Food Processing". I have included the outcome report from the workshops for your information.

I apologize for the delay in getting these to you and hope that it has not caused a problem for you.

If you need any other information or have any questions please call the office.

Thank you

Donna Tookey
Coordinator
Peace Value Added Food & Ag Association

Visit our Website at www.peacecountryproducts.com

Executive Summary:

On April 6th 2001 people from across the province of British Columbia gathered in Richmond for a **Small Scale Food Processors Sector Consultation**. The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers and CEDCO Victoria sponsored this event.

The sector consultation event was initiated and co-ordinated by Community Venture Development Services (CVDS), and was a community driven initiative by a provincial steering committee from within British Columbia's Community Commercial Kitchen Organizations (BC CCKO's).

A recent study of value-added food processing in rural BC, conducted by CVDS, concluded that markets for quality niche food products are expanding rapidly. However, with BC's geographic challenges, small scale growers and processors are facing obstacles to moving forward into these new markets.

As a result CVDS developed the sector consultation event first to bring the sector together to share the skills, knowledge and infrastructure of existing organizations with each other, and start-up groups; and second, consultation was required to strengthen the sector's vision of how this industry can contribute to community sustainability as the industry grows.

At the conclusion of the event several recommendations were put forward by the group including:

- Test the feasibility of a provincial marketing co-operative network to increase rural capacity in skills development, leadership, and knowledge base.
- Build community links with new or existing co-ops.
- Document a development process that can be of assistance to economic development groups interested in incubating this industry in their local area.
- Identify specific learning objectives.
- Provide opportunity for networking and avenues for marketing for rural participants from small communities

The provincial steering committee has expanded due to the strong support from the sector and to remain a community driven initiative they agree to meet and plan the next steps toward developing a provincial association of small-scale growers and processors.

SMALL SCALE FOOD PROCESSORS

Expenses:

Flight	\$318.18	
Registration	150.00	
Accommodations/Food	<u>327.05</u>	
Total		\$795.23

Income:

Open Learning Agency	\$113.13	
CEDO	<u>208.26</u>	
Total		<u>\$319.39</u>

Requested Funding:

\$475.84