

**Institute of Food Processing Technology Gets Green Light  
Cambridge, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The Honourable Gary Goodyear, Federal Minister of State for Science and Technology, and Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Leeanna Pendergast jointly announced major infrastructure funding for Conestoga College that includes the Institute of Food Processing Technology (IFPT).

The AOFP is pleased to partner with Conestoga College in the creation of the Institute of Food Processing Technology. It is a further commitment to building the capacity of Ontario's food and beverage industry workforce at this highly acclaimed College. Creation of the Institute of Food Processing Technology has been a major focus of the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors (AOFP) championed by AOFP President Craig Richardson, also President and CEO of Grand River Foods.

Mr. Richardson noted that "this is a great day for Ontario's food and beverage processing industry as we will now have post-secondary training in place to support the skills that we need for the future success of this important industry. The industry is a major contributor to the provincial economy and its future is dependent upon a skilled workforce to support this high tech industry. The Institute of Food Processing Technology will be the foundation for that training."

The IFPT represents approximately 60,000 square feet of advanced training and applied research space, to be directly adjacent to Conestoga's new 200,000 square foot School of Engineering and Information Technology. These state-of-the-art facilities will be built as part of Phase 1 construction of Conestoga's new Cambridge Campus. The IFPT will be built on a 130 acre parcel of land immediately adjacent to Hwy 401 and will be seen by an estimated 70,000 commuters daily.

Initially the curriculum will be based on skills development necessary to install, operate and maintain plant floor equipment with a specific focus on training technologists, technicians and skilled tradespeople. Richardson sees the long term vision including the delivery of an advanced business degree in Food Processing Management as a key resource to the food and beverage processing industry.

The IFPT announcement follows on the heels of an announcement made last week that granted Conestoga College 'Training Delivery Agent' status for the new apprenticeship for the food processing industry – Process Operator – Food Manufacturing.

The Alliance of Ontario Food Processors represents the interests of Ontario's food and beverage processing industry. The food and beverage processing industry generates \$33 billion in shipments annually and directly employees over 110,000 people.

For more information:

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