



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

INDUSTRY ALERT: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO THE *FOOD AND DRUG ACT*

The Government of Canada recently announced changes to the *Food and Drug Act* that will help industry deal with the competitive global market and respond to increasing consumer demands for information regarding the safety of food and other consumer products (e.g. natural health products, drugs, and cosmetics).

The proposed changes will improve enforcement of the Act's regulations. The Nutritional Labelling Regulations and the Natural Health Products Regulations are the two regulations under the *Food and Drug Act* that relate directly to processors of food, functional food and natural health products.

Fines for non-compliance with the regulations will be increased from a range of \$5,000 to \$5 million. There has also been an increase in jail sentences for non-compliance.

The Saskatchewan Food Processors Association (SFPA) administers a fund to help the food industry comply with Nutrition Labelling Regulations. Members and non-members of the SFPA are eligible for funding. For more information, contact Darrell Schneider at 306-683-2412 or by e-mail at schneider@sfpa.sk.ca.

For additional assistance with the new regulatory requirements, contact Shika Agblor, Ph.D, Senior Food Scientist, Market Development and Food Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, at 306-933-5769.