

Minister Wants BSE Compensation to be Flexible

YELLOWKNIFE (June 16,2003) - Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine is urging the federal government to ensure compensation for producers affected by the BSE outbreak in Western Canada is flexible enough to meet the needs of all businesses impacted.

Speaking at the emergency meeting of federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture in Vancouver on Friday, Mr. Antoine noted that many businesses and producers beyond cattle producers are being impacted by the BSE outbreak.

“Northern producers of caribou and musk-ox meat products for export markets as well as outfitters are feeling the effect of the ban on meat products destined for the United States,” he said.

The Minister commended the Government of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on their handling of the BSE outbreak. “While we support the proposals to provide financial compensation to western producers, we want to ensure it is flexible,” he said.

He brought a similar message from the Nunavut Minister of Sustainable Development Olayuk Akesuk.

“We want to assure northern businesses that their concerns are being considered equally with those of western producers,” Mr. Antoine said.

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