

BSE Compensation Fair Says Minister

YELLOWKNIFE (June 19, 2003) - Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine says the financial program aimed at reducing some of the economic impacts arising from the outbreak of BSE in the cattle industry is fair.

The Minister worked with his federal, provincial and territorial colleagues to develop the program, which will provide immediate, short-term relief to those directly affected by the BSE outbreak.

“The number one priority has been, and continues to be, the re-opening of borders,” Mr. Antoine said. “This program will meet the most immediate and pressing need. I will continue to work with my federal, provincial and territorial colleagues to monitor and respond to developments as they emerge.”

Officials from RWED have surveyed various sectors in the Northwest Territories to determine if there is any cause for immediate concerns.

Outfitters in the NWT have received protocols that they are to follow to ensure their clients do not run into problems at the Canada/United States border. While, the Canadian Tourism Commission has provided the protocols, NWT Arctic Tourism is distributing updates to its membership including outfitters.

“It is essential that we get the message out that these protocols are in place and that we are open for business,” Mr. Antoine said. “We will continue to provide updated information to outfitters so that they are current with custom requirements. It is critical that our industry follow these protocols.”

There has been no disruption in the commercial export of musk-ox meat because harvests only occur in the winter months. However, new procedures may have to be established once the ban on the export of meat into the US is lifted.

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