

Press Release

Horsepower in B.C.'s Economy!

October 15 2010 Aldergrove British Columbia - A recent survey conducted by Horse Council British Columbia (HCBC) found that horses generate an estimated \$740 million dollars in economic activity in B.C. and that number may be on the rise.

The survey's results indicate that there are around 100,000 horses in BC on almost 14,000 farms, and that the industry creates some 7200 full time jobs. Moreover, according to survey respondents, more than ninety percent of horse owners will either be maintaining or increasing their involvement in the industry in the next five years, despite the economic climate. Investment in buildings and facilities to house horses increased by 120% since 1998.

"The survey results show the value of the horse industry to B.C. Horse owners are optimistic about the future of their industry and are committed to their horses' wellbeing," states Lisa Laycock, executive director of Horse Council B.C. "HCBC is looking forward to developing programs that address issues important for today's horseman. We appreciate the support of the B.C. provincial government and the Government of Canada for this important initiative."

The survey was conducted in partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Funding for the survey was provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program. This program is delivered in B.C. by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C.

The purpose of the survey was to understand and document the scope and impact of the horse industry within B.C. A previous industry survey was conducted in 1998 and this new study provides data for comparison to monitor the growth of the sector. Survey respondents included the HCBC membership, racing population, breeders and agricultural voices.

Horse Council B.C. is a membership-driven not-for-profit association representing the equine industry throughout British Columbia. It was established in 1980 to provide a coordinating body to serve all equestrian and equine interests except pari-mutuel racing. The Council serves over 21,000 members involved in all aspects of the horse industry through its ongoing commitments to communication, education and the well-being of horses.

To view the complete 2009 Equine Industry Study, go to www.hcbc.ca or contact
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