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## Board of Directors Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors recently attended the Egg Farmers of Canada national conference, held in La Malbaie, QC. The opening Board Meeting took place on July 8<sup>th</sup>, where producers from across Canada discussed many pertinent topics facing Canada's egg industry. Some highlights included discussion about egg supply & demand, budget, quota allocation, Animal Care Program, Start Clean – Stay Clean™ program, and trade negotiation updates (ie: WTO).

The Board would like to thank their fellow egg farmers, government and industry representatives, for an excellent turnout at the June round of EFA Regional Meetings, which included a successful return to Grande Prairie. We heard positive feedback about the use of video to demonstrate best practices for bird handling, and will keep that in mind while planning future meetings. We would like to stress the importance of keeping all aspects of the Animal Care Program in mind every day!

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## PURPOSE OF THE EFA

EFA exists so there will be an environment in which Alberta egg producers can thrive within the Canadian industry, at a cost that demonstrates good stewardship of resources.

## EFA OFFICE HOURS

The EFA office will be **closed on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> for Labour Day, and Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving.** We hope this will not cause any inconvenience.

## EGG PRICE UPDATE

Effective from **November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

### **Grade A**

X Large	\$2.080 ---
Large	\$2.080 ---
Medium	\$1.900 ---
Small	\$1.480 ---
Nest Run	\$1.964 ---
Pee Wee	\$0.270 ---

### **Grade B**

\$0.750 ---

### **Grade C**

\$0.150 ---

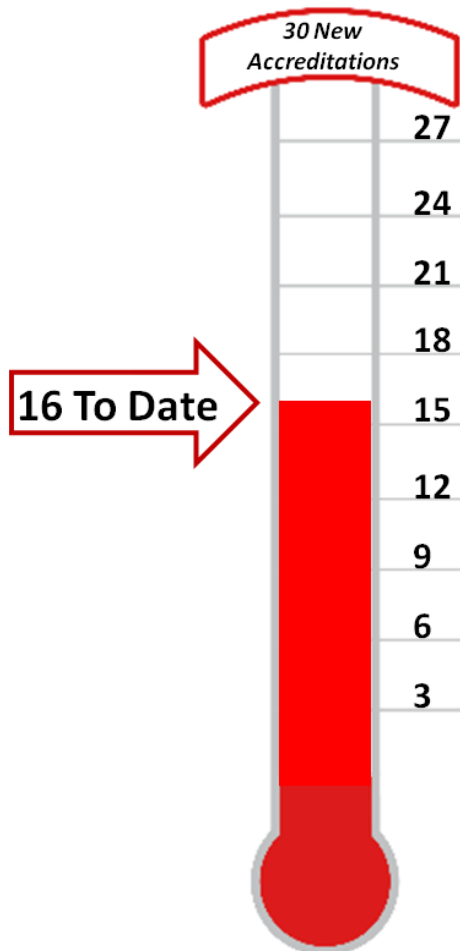
*From the minimum paying price, processors can only deduct charges as authorized by the EFA Board. Farm-gate pickup rates were set in August 2010 and no increase in individual freight rates have been approved since that time.*

## Field Statistics Update

Here's an update on how our farmers are doing with their Start Clean – Stay Clean (SC-SC) and Animal Care Program (ACP) evaluations, so far in 2014:

- 86 SC-SC layer evaluations have been completed so far in 2014
  - ✓ Alberta's average score: 98.4%
  - ✓ 38 Alberta farmers scored a perfect 100% rating
- 86 ACP evaluations have been completed so far in 2014
  - ✓ Alberta's average score: 98.3%
  - ✓ 55 facilities have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 63 SC-SC pullet evaluations have been completed so far in 2014
  - ✓ Alberta's average score: 97.8%
  - ✓ 25 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating
  - ✓ 16 pullet growers are newly accredited in the program

Thank you to all our farmers, for their commitment and hard work each and every day, to ensure that safe, high quality eggs are produced humanely!



**EFA's goal is to have 30 producers newly accredited in the SC-SC Pullet Program in 2014.**

Congratulations to the following producers who have recently achieved their SC-SC Pullet accreditation, bringing the total to 16 producers and helping us move closer to our goal, while demonstrating their commitment to excellence in food safety!

- ✓ Creekside Farms
- ✓ Oaklane Colony
- ✓ Prairiehome Colony
- ✓ East Raymond Colony
- ✓ Ponderosa Colony
- ✓ Cameron Farms
- ✓ Parkland Colony

## EFA PRODUCER WEBSITE

The Producer Website is a great source of information about your industry.

- Extreme Caution Urged When Hiring – tips to check potential employees (under *Emergency Preparedness, Farm Security*)
- A summary of the updates to the Animal Care Program, as well as templates for the Farm Welfare Policy, Employee Code of Conduct and Visitor Code of Conduct (under *Animal Care*)
- Presentations from past EFA Regional Meetings
- New page for Farm Safety
- New page for Transportation

## EGG FARMING BEST PRACTICE

While the recent hot weather has been welcome, it's important to remember to check your cooler temperature. The SC-SC program requires you to keep your on-farm cooler between 10-13 °C (50-55 °F). Storing your eggs in this temperature range will help reduce cracks due to abrupt temperature changes, while keeping your eggs safe from Salmonella and other organisms. A well-functioning, clean fan in the cooler can help maintain your cooler temperature, as it will move and mix air to keep it at a uniform temperature.

## BIO-SECURITY TIP

Provide receptacles for paperwork (ie: invoices) outside of the Restricted Area.

## Animal Care Program Updates

At EFC's summer meeting, the EFC Board approved a new scoring system and six new elements for the Animal Care Program. These additions were made in an effort to continue strengthening the ACP for egg farmers across Canada.

The new scoring system introduces Critical Care Elements (CCE) and Care Elements (CE). CCE are fundamental to the ACP, while CE are important and require a higher level of control. If 1 CCE or 2 CE are missing or incomplete during an audit, it will result in the need for immediate action to resolve the issue through the Corrective Action process, regardless of overall score.

There are 3 new elements that come into effect on August 9, 2014:

**Farm Animal Welfare Policy** – This element was added in order to show a documented commitment to animal care principles by farm management and ownership. The farm owner must read and sign this policy once a year and keep it on file for reference. This policy must include an emphasis on the commitment of the farmer to foster a culture of understanding towards animal care principles and requirements, and must have a zero tolerance policy that states that any form of abuse towards the birds is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

**Employee Code of Conduct** – The addition of this element will ensure that anyone working on the farm acknowledges their understanding of what is expected of them while they perform their work, as it relates to animal care. By signing, employees understand their responsibility to ensure proper care and report improper care of hens. The Employee Code must be read and signed by each individual who works within your barn on an annual basis.

**Visitor Policy** – This new element to the program builds on what farmers do already in logging visitors, but ensures that visitors to the production unit understand and acknowledge their responsibilities with respect to animal care. The Visitor Policy must be available in the visitor log book for review by visitors. All visitors to your barn must sign the logbook, acknowledging their understanding of the commitments detailed in the Visitor Policy.

There are 3 new elements that must be implemented no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. EFA will be working to develop further information resources and forms, to assist producers and ensure they meet these requirements:

*Continued on Page 4...*

## BE AWARE TIP: UNDERSTAND ACCESS TO INFORMATION REQUESTS

The *Access to Information Act* was introduced in 1983 and declares that any Canadian citizen has a right to and shall, on request, be given access to any record under the control of a government institution. The request must be made in writing and the government must respond within 30 days.

This type of request has been used by special interest groups on many occasions, to gather information about a specific company, farm or industry. Last fall, Ag & Food Exchange (AFX) discovered that animal rights activists were trying a more focused 'testing' of access to information requests, to see how much and what sort of details could be gathered on animal agriculture targets, specifically transporters, farmers and processors.

In the past, most transport and plant data, such as DOA's, have been used to build a case against a farm or company, in a campaign or direct targeting of major customers. In other cases such as fur farms, very specific mapping of farm locations has been created, which has led to farm protests and even illegal on-farm activity. It's important to note that even if no immediate action is taken, the whole concept of social engineering of our personal information can be very unsettling and stressful. It is important to have an awareness of activist tactics. - *courtesy AFX*

## Animal Care Program Updates... Continued from Page 3

**Routine Inspection** – Although farmers inspect their hens already, this element ensures that the process is documented, and provides specific requirements for what is to be inspected and at what frequency.

Consistency on all farms is a key expectation of retail and foodservice customers, so having daily inspections done in the same way helps to provide that standardization.

**Handling, Catching, Loading Guidelines** – This element was added because this is a highly visible and vulnerable area where animal welfare can be compromised. Developing a set of guidelines and having documentation around the catching and loading process, will help protect farmers from potential welfare issues identified at processing plants, for example.

**Euthanasia Plan** – This is one of the most important areas where welfare can be compromised, but also one where sometimes the best practice isn't understood by the general public because of how it looks. By documenting methods used, ensuring personnel are properly trained, and following well-recognized and approved methods, the farmer ensures that hens are euthanized appropriately when it is necessary.

Each of the six new Animal Care Program elements are worth 30 points and have been categorized as Critical Care Elements, except for the Visitors Log, which is a Care Element. Documents for the three elements that come into force on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 are the same as those sent to producers in April, and are now available on the producer website.

## New Website – Farm Manager

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) have launched a new farm management website – Farm Manager. In an easy to navigate format, it covers a lot of ground on business planning, business arrangements and taxation, financial management, risk management and marketing.

The site also includes YouTube videos, decision making tools, and lists of upcoming events and trending topics. Additional resources, where producers can look for suggestions on where to find even more farm management information, are also linked to from the Farm Manager site.

Visit Farm Manager at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/farm-manager](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/farm-manager)

- submitted by ARD, Livestock and Farm Business Branch

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### August 25

EFA Sustainability Strategy Meeting  
Calgary

### August 27

Production Management  
Committee Meeting  
Calgary

### August 28

Western Provinces Meeting  
Calgary

### September 11

AB SM5 Managers Meeting

### September 16

Research Committee Meeting  
Calgary

### September 23 & 24

EFC Meetings (closed)  
Ottawa

### September 29 & 30

EFA Board Meeting  
Canmore

### September 30

EFA Strategic Planning  
Canmore

### October 1

EFA Strategic Planning  
Canmore

### October 8

Grader Advisory Committee  
Meeting  
Calgary

## Welcome New Entrants!

EFA would like to congratulate the 7 successful applicants to the New Entrant Program, who are each eligible for 1,500 units of quota!

- Esther Weisse, Lethbridge, AB
- Silver Valley Colony, Bonanza, AB
- Vanessen Enterprises Ltd., Coaldale, AB
- Loughed Colony, Loughed, AB
- Richard & Mandy Molenaar, Grande Prairie, AB
- Tara Warkentin, Fort Vermilion, AB
- Leslie Sax, Neerlandia, AB

It is vital to the long-term sustainability of our egg industry that new farmers and new investments are encouraged. The New Entrant Program was established in order to assist individuals and families who want to own and operate an egg farm in Alberta, by alleviating some of the producer's start-up costs.

There were 40 qualified candidates, who were included in the draw for seven available lots of quota. A reception will take place in Calgary on November 5, 2014, to welcome our new entrants.

"On behalf of the EFA Board, I would like to congratulate the successful applicants of EFA's New Entrant Program. We are excited to welcome new producers into our industry. Thanks to all who applied"

- Susan Schafers, Chair, EFA Board of Directors

## Farm Gate Pickup – Round Table Results

Farm gate pickup costs were examined at EFA's Regional Meetings in June, including a round table discussion involving producers. EFA would like to share the results of the electronic survey that was conducted:

1. Should EFA consider pooling farm-gate pickup costs in Alberta?				
	G.P.	Edm.	Cal.	Leth.
YES	87%	76%	46%	50%
NO	13%	24%	54%	50%
2. If EFA considers pooling, should it be one rate for all, or different rates?				
	G.P.	Edm.	Cal.	Leth.
Same rate for all producers	80%	72%	16%	32%
Different rates, by location	7%	15%	74%	52%
Different rates, by farm size	13%	13%	10%	16%

As you can see, there were differing opinions on this issue at each meeting. The Board will be reviewing these results and determining next steps.



## ABOUT EGGNOTES



*EggNotes* is the official newsletter of the Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:  
**info@eggs.ab.ca**

Submission deadline for the next issue of *EggNotes*:  
**September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Next issue of *EggNotes*:  
**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

## "YOKES" OF THE MONTH



*Guaranteed to crack you up!*

**Q:** What do you get when you cross an egg and a vacuum?

**A:** A scrambled egg cleaner!

**Q:** Why did the hen jump in the lake?

**A:** Because the rooster egged her on!

## Shoo Fly!

Flies aren't just annoying; they are capable of harbouring more than 100 human and animal disease-causing organisms, and cause stress to the animals and workers on your farm.

Monitoring your fly levels is an important first step for fly management, as it helps in making control decisions and to monitor the effectiveness of your management program. One simple, cost-effective way to monitor flies is to use spot cards, which are 3" x 5" white cards that are placed in areas where flies tend to settle, where there is little air movement and they will not be disturbed. Replace the card each week and count the number of 'fly specks' – 50 or more in a week indicate the need for fly control measures.

Poultry manure can provide a good environment for fly breeding, especially when wet. Manure with a moisture level of less than 50% is less suitable for fly breeding, and at levels of less than 30%, fly breeding usually does not occur at all. Here are some management steps you can take to manage your manure for fly control:

- Remove manure from the barn frequently (at least weekly)
- Provide abundant ventilation or manure drying, to manage the moisture content in the manure
- Prevent leaks in waterers
- Maintain proper insulation on water lines, to prevent condensation
- Avoid feed rations that are laxative
- If you move manure to a pile, tarp the pile for at least 5 days immediately after it is removed from the barn, to prevent fly breeding

Other steps you can take to control your fly levels include:

- Remove bird mortalities from the barn daily
- Promptly clean broken eggs and spilled feed
- Clean your egg packing area daily
- Keep vegetation outside the barn mowed, to allow for good air flow through the fans and eliminate fly resting areas
- Where possible, doors and windows should be screened to stop entry
- Fly traps can be effective, especially in enclosed areas where good cleaning practices are followed
- Insecticides can be used when facing a serious fly outbreak, in addition to cleaning and management measures (be sure to read and follow the instructions); try rotating different products to minimize resistance

Tracking ongoing action to monitor, manage and control flies, will result in fewer flies bothering you and your flock, helping to keep your flocks healthy and your eggs safe!

## PURE NORTH PET PRODUCTS

Pure North Pet Products is a new pet food company that is developing production capacity in North East Calgary. In order to test new products based on end-of-lay hens, they are looking for 5,000-10,000 birds.

If you have an on-farm provincially inspected processing plant, will be going out of production in the next month or two, and are interested in selling whole birds that have been de-feathered and eviscerated, please contact Jenna Griffin at the EFA office, or Edward Zhang of Pure North Pet Products at 587-228-8628.

## HYBRID TURKEY UPDATE

Hybrid Turkeys, a Kitchener-based turkey breeder, and five of its employees face a total of 11 animal cruelty charges, stemming from an episode of CBC's Marketplace, which featured an undercover video that was recorded by an animal activist organization. The charges were laid by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals.

David Libertini, managing director of Hybrid Turkeys, stated that "Hybrid has zero tolerance for animal abuse. As soon as we reviewed the video, we suspended the four employees involved."

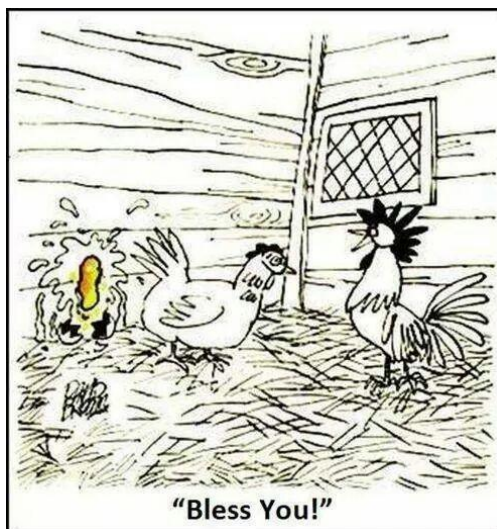
The company says it has strict official guidelines for employees.

## Feather Cover Project

The feather cover of laying hens is a measure of bird welfare. One of EFA's current priorities is to help producers understand what they can do on farm to improve the feather condition of birds during and at end of lay, and to help them make a meaningful assessment of the quality of feather cover in their flock. Good or poor feather cover can be an objective measure of hen welfare, but is also related to what is common and what is achievable, in specific types of hen housing systems, and with specific types of birds. We know there is a large amount of variability between flocks in the industry, but do not yet have any benchmarks.

Accordingly, with funding from Growing Forward 2, EFA has initiated a project with Dr. Nigel Cook, to obtain a measure of the state of the egg industry in Alberta with respect to feather cover. The project will also evaluate a subjective, user-friendly, 4-point measurement scale and how that compares to measurements of feather cover using infrared thermography (a tool to help make measuring feather cover easier). The ultimate purpose of the project is to provide producers and those conducting welfare assessments with a tool for the on-farm assessment of feather cover. At the end of the project a video will be developed, which will support producers while implementing scoring procedures on-farm, if desired.

We need your help! In order to complete the project, we need to visit 33 farms, twice each, between September 2014 and November 2015. We are looking to visit farms at 45 and 70 weeks of age and are also hoping to visit all producers who have alternative systems. In the coming months, you may be contacted by a member of the research team to discuss your willingness to participate in the project. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Jenna at the EFA office.



Submitted by:  
Smoky Lake Colony

## ALBERTA EGG MARKET UPDATE

The Nielson preliminary retail sales data is available up to June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.66 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 2.3% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending May 31<sup>st</sup>) and a 1.1% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2013.

Nielson retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 5.9% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 35.61 million dozen eggs! Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 19.5% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 2.24 million dozen eggs (6.3% of the total eggs sold in AB).

## EFA ONLINE!

The EFA consumer website has been completely redesigned to have a stronger egg theme, shine a spotlight on our farmers, and provide consumers with much more of the information they are seeking!

Get Cracking to: [www.eggs.ab.ca](http://www.eggs.ab.ca)



Like us on Facebook!

[facebook.com/EggFarmersAlberta](https://facebook.com/EggFarmersAlberta)



Follow us on Twitter!

[twitter.com/EFA\\_AB\\_eggs](https://twitter.com/EFA_AB_eggs)

## Focus on Farmers

Summer is always an incredibly active time of year for EFA, in the areas of both public and government relations, on our own and with our industry partners. Our *Egg Ambassadors* are always up for the challenge!

**Calgary Stampede** – this 10-day event is a wonderful chance to interact with many Albertans, educating them about eggs and egg farming. Joe Kleinsasser and Paul Wurz both provided the public with the opportunity to talk with a real egg farmer, which is always a thrill!

**Prime Minister's Stampede BBQ** – this AB SM-5 event is a fantastic opportunity to network with many MPs and MLAs!

**Premier's Stampede Breakfast** – another great networking opportunity for producers, this event is sponsored by AB SM-5, who provide all the food!

**Premier's Klondike Days Breakfast** – similar to the Premier's Stampede Breakfast in Calgary, this Edmonton event is also sponsored by AB SM-5!

**Farmer Profiles** – 2 new farmer profiles have been added to the EFA consumer website: Muneer Gilani and Ron & Sheila Hamilton. Farm visits were made in late July to Wild Rose Colony and Old Elm Colony, and their profiles will also be added in the next few months.

EFA would like to thank all our *Egg Ambassadors*, as well as the farms and colonies that participate in our farmer profiles project and host farm tours, to help us share all the positive stories about our egg industry!

## Upcoming Events

Come visit the EFA booth at these *EGGcellent* events:

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| ➤ <b>City Slickers</b>         | <b>September 19</b> |
| Stony Plain                    |                     |
| ➤ <b>CIBC Run for the Cure</b> | <b>October 5</b>    |
| Calgary, Southcentre Mall      |                     |

## EFA 2014 Marketing Highlights

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| • Total # of events attended:               | 19     |
| • Total # of events sponsored:              | 84     |
| • Total # of school & health presentations: | 53     |
| • Total # of resources distributed:         | 85,326 |
| • Total # of promotional items distributed: | 95,631 |



## CLASSIFIED ADS



### #1) For Sale:

- 600 Lohman White pullets, 19 weeks on September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - 100' Cumberland pan feeds
  - 2 x 100' Val nipple lines
- Contact: Sammy @ 403-757-2330

## EFA ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret to announce that Steve Howe, former Egg Farmers of Alberta Director (2001-2006) and Chairman of the Board (2002-2006), has passed away.

Steve was born in Lloydminster, Alberta, and passed away on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, at the age of 62. Steve owned and managed Starline Poultry Farms, south of Calgary, from the 1980's until 2008.

Steve and his wife, Deidra, raised four children. They moved to Camrose, where he operated Rose City Dairy.

## EGGNOTES SUBSCRIPTION INFO

Do you know someone who wants to subscribe to *EggNotes*? Simply have them send their name, company or organization, fax number and email address to: [info@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca)

## Feature Recipe: CRUSTLESS CARROT MINI-QUICHES



**Makes: 24 servings • Preparation: 15 minutes • Cooking: 20 minutes**

*Mini quiches make a great finger food for any party!*

### INGREDIENTS:

- vegetable spray
- ¼ cup (60 mL) sliced green onion
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 ½ cup (375 mL) grated carrots (about 4 small)
- 5 eggs
- 1 ½ cup (375 mL) shredded Swiss or mozzarella cheese
- ⅓ cup (75 mL) yellow cornmeal
- 1 tsp (5 mL) dried basil
- ¼ tsp (1.25 mL) ground nutmeg
- ¼ tsp (1.25 mL) pepper

### DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Heat oil in skillet over medium heat. Add green onions and garlic; cook, stirring frequently, until tender but not browned. Add carrots; cook until tender crisp, about 2 minutes more. Remove from heat.
- 2) Whisk eggs in a large bowl. Add cheese, cornmeal, basil, nutmeg and pepper; whisk to combine. Stir in carrot mixture.
- 3) Spray 12 or 24 muffin cups with baking spray (if you only have 1 mini muffin cup pan, bake half at a time, while the other half is stored in the fridge). Spoon about 1 tbsp (15 mL) carrot mixture into each muffin cup. Bake in preheated 325 °F (160 °C) oven until set, about 15 minutes.
- 4) Let stand for 2 minutes. Remove quiches from pan. Serve hot.

# Pledge Form

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation



## Donor Information (please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Billing address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Province, PC \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone 1 | Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax | Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Pledge Information

I (we) pledge a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be paid

I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of: ☐ cash ☐ check ☐ credit card ☐ other.

Credit card type | Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_  
CVV # \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgement Information

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I (we) wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

Signature(s)

Date

Please make checks payable to:

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation