

The Glengarry News

“Nothing’s holding us back now.” Glengarry Cheesemaking Inc. wins government funding to modernize equipment and increase competitiveness

July 3 2019 BY TARA MACDONALD News Staff

Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MP Frances Drouin visited Glengarry Cheesemaking Inc. on Wednesday June 26th to announce an investment of \$162,833 towards production facilities.

The grant – part of the Dairy Processing Investment Fund – will help enable Glengarry Cheesemaking Inc. to complete their expansion project. Overall, the project’s total value is estimated at \$918,082 and will take place in their Lancaster facility located at 5926 County Road 34. The project is expected to increase the annual volume of cow and goat’s milk used in production, streamline and optimize processing for increased cheese production while increasing efficiency, reducing production costs, create two new dairy products and add three new jobs at their Lancaster facility.

“To be recognized and supported by our government with this grant funding is a wonderful acknowledgement for the business and in turn our community,” said Ms. Peters-Morris, owner of Glengarry Cheesemaking Inc.

SDG Warden Jamie MacDonald agreed. “It’s great to see the federal government put some money behind these small businesses and help promote food tourism,” said Warden MacDonald who commented upon industry advances, the ability to increase local job offerings and the entrepreneurial spirit of our local farm-to-table food artisans. “Agri-food tourism is one of those niche industries that a lot of areas are trying to promote. Here in Glengarry we have Glengarry Fine Cheese, Stonehouse Vineyards, Wood Brothers Brewing, and the list continues to grow.”

The Dairy Processing Investment Fund, valued at \$100 million, was established to provide funding to dairy processors to modernize their operations and improve productivity and competitiveness while helping them prepare for market changes resulting from the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

“The dairy industry contributes greatly to the economic health of this part of our country,” said Mr. Drouin. “Through the Dairy Processing Investment Fund, the Government of Canada is offering opportunities to small businesses – such as Glengarry Cheesemaking Inc. - to grow and contribute to the prosperity of our region.”

And grow they will.

“We have our brand established now, the cheese has achieved many prestigious domestic and international awards and is known to be that of high-quality consistent product,” said Ms. Peters-Morris. “This is going from an artisan plan to something larger; it will literally double the business we’re already doing,” she beamed. “Nothing’s holding us back now.”

‘High-quality’ is an understatement. For many years now, Ms. Peters-Morris and her team have been producing some of the finest cheese in the world and have brought Glengarry accolades throughout North America and Europe with her Aged Lankaster Loaf and Celtic Blue cheeses.

Established in 2004, Glengarry Cheese Making Inc.'s Aged Lankaster Loaf was crowned champion in the semi-firm category at the Dairy Farmers of Canada 2011 Grand Prix and won first prize at the American Cheese Society awards for best 'American Made/International Style -Dutch Style' category. That year, the famed Lankaster cheese went on to win Grand Champion Variety Cheese at the 2011 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto before hitting the world stage as Supreme Global Champion at the Global Cheese Awards in Somerset, England in 2013 becoming the first Canadian company to win this award in the competition's 153 year history.

Despite their national and international success, the small factory was unable to reach federal licensing standards which would enable them to expand their market outside of Ontario.

With the help of the Dairy Processing Investment Fund, Glengarry Cheesemaking Inc. will be able to continue their business activities and to service the growth while fitting in the expansion and construction activities such as the introduction of new automated brining equipment allowing for the production of local butter and ice cream. Most notably, the company will be also supported in the purchase of a stainless-steel lift thereby fulfilling the requirements for a federal processing license and opening the door to interprovincial markets.

"That's my goal – to go federal. We'll be able to sell anywhere we want now," said Ms. Peters-Morris who expects the project to be completed by the end of this summer.

While Ms. Peters-Morris plans to focus her initial efforts on Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec, the license will also provide Glengarry Cheesemaking Inc. with the ability to market their products in the United States, Europe, and beyond.

It's about time.

"After ten years in the fine cheese sector, we would like and need to meet our new market opportunities within Canada and the USA," said Ms. Peters-Morris. "We would also like to pursue our export opportunities and participate in further international trade when our license is broadened to federal standard."

CAPTIONS:

Say cheese! Owner of Margaret Peters-Morris welcomed MP Francis Drouin to Glengarry Cheesemaking Inc. on Wednesday where MP Drouin announced an investment of \$162,833 under the Dairy Processing Investment Fund. The project is expected to increase the annual volume of cow and goat's milk used in production, increase cheese production, optimize processing while reducing production costs, create two new dairy products, and add three new jobs. - TARA MACDONALD

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