

**BC Meats Centre of Excellence  
Abattoir Production, Training and Research Facility  
Project Proposal Overview**

The project proposal is to develop a business plan for a “BC Meats Centre of Excellence” in the Cariboo region. The centre would contain an operational abattoir for slaughter/processing, a training facility, as well as a state-of-the-art research connected to TRU, and board rooms for presentations and industry meetings. The BC Meats Centre of Excellence will showcase the region, drive innovation and best practices, and promote industry communication and collaboration.

There is a need for an abattoir in the Cariboo. A gap in slaughter capacity means that current producers will not be able to fulfil meat orders and maintain supply to BC consumers. They also face increased transportation costs to get their animals to existing abattoirs, and potential production delays as these abattoirs are already operating near capacity. This is a major issue for the region, which produces 96,000 head (Census 2016) and approximately 25% of BC’s finished livestock.

The industry initiative is to partner with specialized shareholders to build at Provincial/Federal meat processing/slaughter facility that would also house a research and development program. The operating plant would fill the void that currently exists so local producers in the area can grow their existing customer base. Training programs would provide needed skilled labourers for the industry. The training would include harvest, grading, cutting to NAMP codes and best practises in areas such as traceability, food safety, animal welfare, product labelling and efficiencies in shipping. This would augment the TRU Meat Cutting program which currently does not cover these areas. There is an also an opportunity for this facility to be a shareholder in BC BeefNet providing meat products BC wide.

Initial meetings with stakeholders has established industry support from Cariboo producer associations and TRU research groups. The next step is to get funding for consultants to develop business strategy (target \$65,000), which would include capital costs, advice on a sustainable business structure and financial/business plan. Government support and determining funding sources for future capital costs also needs to be established.