

▶ Purchase this Page

Legal Notice TORSTAR SYNDICATION SERVICES

'Potato Express' on track to Metro

By Derek Ferguson Toronto Star

An anonymous New Brunswick farmer has made a deposit in Metro's food banks — 1 million pounds of potatoes.

The donation is being transported by train and is expected to reach FoodShare Metro Toronto by mid-week, said Joseph Edison, program director for the Global Food Bank Association, a non-profit international food distribution agency based in Calgary.

At today's prices, which range from 3 to 12 cents a kilogram (1.5 cents to 5.5 cents a pound), the contribution is worth \$15,000 to \$55,000.

The farmer — who requested anonymity — approached the association with his offer Wednesday, Edison said, and loading and transportation details were expected to be completed by today.

"We are still in the process of arranging transportation, scheduling and loading," he said. "This is a big deal. We're talking 10 (train) carloads."

Path cleared

The path for the donation was cleared Thursday after federal agriculture officials gave permission to ship the top-grade New Brunswick potatoes out of province, The Star's Alan Story reports. They would otherwise have been bulldozed back into farmers' fields.

Agriculture Canada initially delayed permission for the shipments because of regulations prohibiting the interprovincial transfer of vegetables unless certain requirements are met.

Food banks in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal have all ordered 22,700 kilograms (50,000 pounds), which are expected to arrive by truck early next week.

Metro was allotted the 454,000-kilogram (1 million-pound) donation because "we're confident Toronto can distribute tonnes and tonnes of food," Edison said.

Donna MacDonald of FoodShare, a co-ordinating group of food distributors that serves 130 agencies in Metro, said she was delighted with the donation.

"This is a precedent," she said. "Nothing like this has ever happened before; it's great."

FoodShare has five distribution centres in Metro, including The Daily Bread Food Bank, which had already requested 22,700 kilograms of potatoes before the huge See MILLION/page A14



Peking honors Mulroney

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney reviews a Chinese honor guard yesterday during ceremonies welcoming him to the Chinese capital. Canadian officials raised the issue of human rights during talks, but the Chinese apparently told them to mind their own business. Story/A18.

Ukrainians cry over homes, pets left behind in radioactivity zone

KOPELOVO, Soviet Union (Reuter) — Drenched with sunshine and apple blossoms, the Kopelovo state farm seems the perfect Ukrainian idyll — except for the Red Army medical tent under the chestnut tree.

Here white-coated orderlies in high boots run geiger counters over peasants from Opachichi, 27 kilometres (17 miles) from the stricken Chernobyl nuclear reactor.

They were brought south last weekend in an exodus of 84,000 people from the area of the world's worst nuclear accident.

"If this has all happened in peace time, can you imagine what it would be like in war?"

- ☐ Fallout moving away from Canada, tests show. Page A8
- ☐ Radiation ruins environmental balance. Page B1

Reporters were allowed to talk with a few of the 1,000 people who fled to Kopelovo with their cattle, but they all said they came willingly.

"We've been evacuated before," said an old peasant woman alluding to the many upheavals this region has witnessed including occupation by Nazi troops during World War II.

Chernobyl 'by far' the worst nuclear accident, U.N. says

MOSCOW (AP-Reuter-Staff) — The Chernobyl disaster is by far the worst nuclear accident in history, but Soviet experts are getting it under control, officials of the United Nations atomic energy agency said yesterday.

A grandmother, Marina Ilchenko, 80, said officials came a week ago Friday and explained she and her family would have to leave.

"I took some things, two or three little blankets and pillows. We had just built a new home," she said weeping.

"We had to leave our dog. I See UKRAINIANS/page A8

sponsored International Atomic Energy Agency, held a news conference in Moscow yesterday after spending five days studying the disaster and speaking with Soviet officials.

Tax break set for workers buying shares in their firm

By Fred Lebolt Toronto Star

A plan to encourage employees to buy stock in their companies will likely be contained in next week's provincial budget, The Star has learned.

The program, the first of its kind in Canada, to be unveiled Tuesday by Treasurer Robert Nixon, would give Ontario residents a 15 per cent tax credit for buying voting shares from their employer, sources say.

The move is seen as a way for the minority Liberal government of Premier David Peterson to offer a business-oriented package with a populist underpinning.

The program is expected to cost the Ontario government \$25 million in its first year.

Costs would increase in subsequent years, although by how much depends on the success of the program.

Although the plan is expected to apply to all Ontario-based companies, it is specifically designed to help smaller businesses raise funds, other than by going into debt.

Could gain control

It would also encourage workers to gain an ownership stake in their companies and potentially lead to employees gaining control of businesses that would otherwise be closed or sold off.

The program could work like a Canada Savings Bond payroll plan, with payments for the shares coming off each paycheque.

A 15 per cent annual tax credit would mean that an individual buying \$5,000 worth of shares would receive \$750 back from the provincial government, or have the money deducted from provincial tax owing.

Shares purchased under the plan would be held for two years before the employee would be eligible to receive them.

Businesses, in turn, would be encouraged through tax incentives to issue new common stock through the program.

Avoid closures

The credit and incentive package will likely apply to all companies, even those that do not already have any stock held by the public.

Shares of larger companies issued through the program would likely end up on a stock market, such as the Toronto Stock Ex-

Stevens fuss in PM's lap, Turner says

By Alfred Holden Toronto Star

The Sinclair Stevens affair goes right up to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who should order an inquiry into his industry minister's business dealings, Liberal leader John Turner says.

The alleged conflict of interest in a \$2.6 million loan to Stevens' wife "has so shaken the faith of Canadians in the morality, integrity and honesty of this government that it's not going to end until the people of Canada have an answer," Turner told reporters in Toronto yesterday.

"I think this goes right up to the Prime Minister. How much does he know? Why doesn't he act? Why

☐ Bureaucrats expect Stevens to be replaced by Marcel Masse, says Carol Goar. Page B1

doesn't he order an inquiry? Why doesn't he allow Parliament to get the facts? Why doesn't he allow Mr. Stevens to speak?" Turner said angrily.

Talking to reporters after a speech at a Chinatown luncheon, Turner warned that public opinion will crumble the government's "stonewalling" on the Stevens affair even if the Liberals and New Democrats can't.

"I think the average person on the street in Canada wants an answer . . . we're starting to get phone calls from all quarters of the country."

Meanwhile in Victoria, a Progressive Conservative backbench-

Million pounds of spuds on way for Metro needy

Continued from page A1

donation was tendered, MacDonald said.

The other distribution centres — Salvation Army, Scott Mission, North York Harvest Food Bank and Second Harvest — will be pressed into service to handle the new contribution, she said.

In addition to Foodshare's distribution centres, depots in York, Etobicoke and Scarborough will get some of the spuds, which they will then distribute to agencies in their municipalities, MacDonald said.

Foodshare also said intends to take truckloads directly to Ontario and Metro housing projects, such as Regent Park, and "hand it out to people directly," she said.

Food banks in Mississauga, Brampton, Barrie, London, King-

ston and elsewhere in southern Ontario will be contacted Monday, she said, adding that agencies, groups and individuals wanting some of the produce may contact Foodshare at 861-0311.

The biggest problem facing Foodshare is a lack of bags because the spuds are being shipped in bulk, she said, adding that the agency needs bags and volunteers for bagging and distribution.

MacDonald said she is confident of finding a warehouse to store the potatoes. Foodshare representatives have contacted owners of potential facilities, including the Canadian National Exhibition.

Scarborough Controller Brian Ashton, who sits on the CNE board, said the Coliseum "is being reviewed as a possibility," but nothing has yet been decided.