



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

A strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western Canada

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For immediate Release -- News Release

Western Barley Growers Welcomes Barley Vote

January 12, 2007, Airdrie, AB. - “The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is pleased with the announcement of the barley plebiscite” says Jeff Nielsen, President of the WBGA. “Mr. Strahl has delivered on his promise to consult with barley growers on providing more market choice.”

“This vote is about ownership rights and individual marketing freedom.” states Nielsen, “this is not a vote to end the Canadian Wheat Board, this vote is to expand existing options within the Canadian Wheat Board Act.”

“The CWB is certainly viable in the domestic feed grain marketing structure where barley growers have a choice of price pooling with the CWB or sell to grain companies, feed mills or directly to feed lots at a cash price or forward contract. Expanding this option to malt barley and exports is an evolution not a revolution,” continues Nielsen.

Nielsen concludes, “The CWB has already put forward their own choice market option to domestic wheat and barley users with the “field to plate program” they announced in December. This confirms the CWB’s willingness and ability to work in a choice market environment.”

Make sure your voice is heard, Vote for choice.

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News release

MINISTER STRAHL ANNOUNCES VOTE ON THE MARKETING OF BARLEY TO START ON JANUARY 31

OTTAWA, Ontario, January 12, 2007 - The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, announced the date today of the plebiscite on the marketing of barley. The voting period will commence with the mailing of ballots on January 31 and the last day for return ballots to be postmarked will be March 6. Results of the plebiscite will be announced in mid-March. The company chosen to run the plebiscite is the international accounting firm KPMG LLP, which was selected through a competitive process.

"Canada's New Government has made it clear that we would consult with farmers and stakeholders. With this plebiscite, we're delivering on that commitment," said Minister Strahl. "We are providing Western Canadian barley growers with the opportunity to make their own decisions about how they market their grain, whether through the Canadian Wheat Board or through other outlets."

All four provinces in the CWB designated region - Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia - have agreed to provide KPMG with their Production Insurance information identifying producers who insured barley in the years 2002 to 2006, which will help to expedite the process of assembling the list of eligible voters. Minister Strahl thanked the provinces for their assistance in developing the list. The federal government is also providing KPMG with a list of producers reporting barley to the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program to assist in developing the voters list.

Canada's New Government is committed to moving forward in providing marketing choice to western grain farmers, allowing them to maximize their returns, while continuing to preserve a strong Canadian Wheat Board.

For more information on marketing choice, please visit: www.agr.gc.ca/cwb.