



## **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**

## **Election of Conservative Government Will Result in Renewed Enthusiasm for Agriculture**

**January 24, 2006 - Airdrie, AB.:** "The election of a conservative government in Canada yesterday will give agriculture a renewed focus with a more positive outlook" commented Douglas McBain, President, Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA).

"This will be a watershed election for Canadian Agriculture. Support by the Conservative government for an open market of wheat and barley will allow prairie farmers to directly benefit from increased sales opportunities at home and abroad and allow for value added processing ourselves, in new generation co-ops or in new or expanded malting, milling and processing industries", says an exuberant McBain.

"An open market policy will bring benefits to the next generation of western Canadian farmers that have denied the last three generations. Today will usher in a new era in Canadian agriculture" states McBain.

"While the Conservative government is a minority it has a solid mandate from the West, legislative changes are not immediately required. The Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) monopoly is mandated by a ministerial supported policy of denying prairie farmers export licenses. The new Minister responsible for the CWB can start by ordering the CWB licensing department to issue export licenses to prairie farmers, the monopoly will end", says a relieved but excited McBain.

The Conservative party platform has reassured farmers in western Canada that a Conservative government would give them freedom in grain marketing and transportation, both long standing irritants to western Canadian farmers as well as Canada's world trading partners.

"Western Canadian farmers have been some of the strongest supporters of the Conservative party, signaling high expectations that changes to our trade positions and the CWB monopoly question will be made early in this mandate" commented McBain.

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