



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
**A strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western
Canada**

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For immediate release

IMPASSE ON BARLEY REMAINS

February 13, 2008, Airdrie, AB: The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) members going into their 31st annual convention, in Calgary, are expressing extreme concern over the lack of progress in the barley dispute. With no positive messages being heard out of Ottawa February 12, where CWB Chairman Ritter led a delegating of CWB Directors to meet with Minister Ritz, only goes to show that the CWB has no resolve to work with barley producers and move forward.

"Two weeks ago, barley producers and industry partners, Malting Industry Association of Canada - MIAC - and the Western Grain Elevator Association – WGEA along with the Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, met with CWB Minister Ritz. In this meeting we all encouraged the CWB to provide the choices barley farmers have been demanding for some time" states Jeff Nielsen, President WBGA. "The message given to the CWB that day was CashPlus is not acceptable. CashPlus does not fully open the malt barley market to where producers can see full transparent prices and clear market signals. The resolve to denounce CashPlus was unanimous, especially from our industry partners that want to work to provide the contracts and prices today's barley farmer deserves".

The CWB continues to promote and push CashPlus, and they continually try to force the Canadian malting industry and grain trade to accept what they have stated is unacceptable. In circumventing our Canadian malting and grain handlers, the CWB is now reportedly dealing with a major US malting company to contract and purchase barley acres/production they need through CashPlus.

"In doing this, the CWB is tightening the noose around the neck of our Canadian Maltsters and grain trade. Without moving forward and accepting the rights of barley farmers the CWB may - and is no doubt doing - irreparable harm to our industry partners. Harm that affects the Canadian economy not just farmers' pockets" concludes Nielsen.

WBGA members do take comfort in the knowledge that our government is committed to barley freedom and will be introducing legislation to that effect soon.

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For more information contact:

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31st Annual Convention
BARLEY GOING GLOBAL
February 13 – 15 , 2008
Sheraton Cavalier - Calgary, AB
Phone: 403.291.0107
Ask for WBGA Registration Desk