



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Agriculture Centre – 97 East Lake Ramp NE

Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3

Phone: (403) 912-3998

www.wbga.org Email: wbga@wbga.org

News Release

SUPPORT FOR WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS POLICY REMAINS STRONG

Airdrie, AB., February 16, 2009: "The resolutions passed by WBGA members at the annual convention last week expressed strong support for the policy direction we have followed and also gives us the drive to continue working toward changes that will move the barley industry forward" said Brian Otto, commenting on resolutions passed at the WBGA annual convention February 11, 12 and 13, 2009 in Calgary, Alberta. Brian Otto is the newly elected president of the Western Barley Growers Association, replacing outgoing president Jeff Nielsen.

Members passed resolutions relating to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) such as recommending to the federal government that the responsibility for the financial management of the Contingency Fund be placed under the direct control of the Minister Responsible for the CWB; working with the Federal Conservative government to implement a transition plan that includes marketing choice for barley in Western Canada as soon as possible, and lobbying the Honorable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Minister responsible for the CWB to implement changes immediately to the CWB director election process.

Other resolutions included support for the idea that the WGRF, in consultation with the Alberta Barley Commission (ABC) and the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute (BMBRI), investigate forming, administering and directing a national Wheat and Barley Science Cluster, and directing the WBGA to lobby the Federal Government to reintroduce a Bill instituting changes to the Canada Grains Act with the emphasis on modernization, harmonization and privatization as contained in the COMPAS recommendations.

The Board of Directors elected Brian Otto of Warner, AB. as president. Brian and his wife Carolyn operate a 4000 acre dryland farm ten miles east of Warner. Jeff Nielsen, elected to District 2 in the CWB Directors' Election, stepped down as president after the WBGA 32nd annual convention.

Western Barley Growers Association is a strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western Canada.

For more information contact:

Brian Otto
President
Warner, AB
Cell: (403) 647-7661
botto@mrcable.ca

Tom Hewson
Vice President
Langbank, SK
Phone: (306) 538-4572
hewws@sasktel.net

Doug Robertson
Alberta Vice President
Carstairs, AB
Phone: (403) 337-2077
dougar@telusplanet.net