



For Immediate Release -- News Release

Alberta group proud to be a part of new WTO negotiation initiative

April 29, 2006 – Geneva, Switzerland: While in Geneva for the WTO negotiations the Alberta Barley Commission (ABC) and the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) are pleased to be present in Geneva along with the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance as this WTO round nears completion.

We were pleased a Canadian newspaper recently reported the Canadian negotiators on site in Geneva have been given a new mandate to negotiate a WTO trade deal. We all appreciate a good deal at the WTO will significantly improve the economic situation of the 90 % of Canada's agricultural producers who depend on the export market.

The WBGA and ABC are proud to be a part of this new negotiation initiative, especially as the Conservative government in its election platform promised market choice for western Canadian farmers, increased market access for all Canadian agriculture exporters and a commitment to seek reductions in trade distorting subsidies by our trading partners and competitors!

While global success in this round is still tenuous, it is reassuring the new Canadian government is honoring its pre-election commitments to significant change and a desire to enhance the economic returns of a new generation of Canadian farmers.

Jeff Nielsen, President of the WBGA noted "Although a ministerial meeting was not called for this week, our presence as a group pressing for aggressive tariff reductions and subsidy elimination has, once again been welcomed here in Geneva."

Mike Leslie, General Manager of the ABC said "I was pleased to see the dedicated efforts of our negotiation team in Geneva and that the new Canadian government was ready to honor their pre-election commitments moving forward with progress for all agricultural exports".

Tomorrow is another day of negotiations, we at the ABC and the WBGA are committed to success for Canada's grains and oilseed producers and in the coming six weeks of negotiations we are looking forward to significant progress here in Geneva.

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