



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

Agriculture Centre – 97 East Lake Ramp NE
Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3

Phone: (403) 912-3998

Fax: (403) 948-2069 (Airdrie office)

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

For immediate Release -- News Release

Western Barley Growers Association Welcomes the Appointment of Gerry Ritz as the New Minister of Agriculture and Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board

August 14, 2007, Airdrie, AB.: "Gerry Ritz is an excellent choice for Minister of Agriculture and Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board" states Jeff Nielsen, President of the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) when commenting on Mr. Ritz's appointment as Minister of Agriculture, and Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, following today's cabinet shuffle .

"Mr. Ritz's knowledge of our industry and his hands-on experience in agriculture will be a significant asset in meeting the challenges we all face" continues Nielsen, "particularly the reversal of the governments' move to allow barley producers freedom from the Canadian Wheat Board monopoly effective August 1." Mr. Ritz was the Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. He has previously served as the Critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food.

"We look forward to working with Minister Ritz, as we have with his predecessors" commented Nielsen.

"The WBGA also wishes to acknowledge and thank past Minister Chuck Strahl for his active interest in and support of agriculture in western Canada to implement a free market in barley. We wish Hon. Strahl well in his new role as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development" said Nielsen.

For more information contact:

Jeff Nielsen, President
Olds, AB
Cell: (403) 556-0408
jeffniel@platinum.ca

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

Doug McBain, Past President
Cremona, AB
Phone/Fax: (403) 637-3880
dmcbain@wbga.org