

For Immediate Release

WBGA APPLAUDS TODAY'S THRONE SPEECH RECOGNIZING BARLEY FARMERS NEED FOR CHOICE

October 16, 2007 ~ Airdrie, AB: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, today reinforced in the speech from the throne the governments continued pledge to give barley producers true choice as to how they market their barley.

"A key message was given to western Canadian barley producers today - that this government will continue to work towards granting barley farmers the right to sell and market their barley how they deem best" states Jeff Nielsen, President of the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA).

Today's throne speech states ***"Our government will recognize the views of farmers, as expressed in the recent plebiscite on barley, by enacting marketing choice"***.

"Clearly this government has the commitment to provide barley producers marketing choice. With that they have the full support of barley farmers to do what is needed. Today's barley producer is seeing potential income lost due to the marketing of barley for malt and export solely through the Canadian Wheat Board. We need the ability to immediately access existing and potential new emerging barley markets. Creating more value added growth and development, along with stronger relations with current industry partners such as our malting sector. With that it will provide our farm business the ability to achieve higher net farm returns. This progressive positive government is focused on giving barley producers this choice; whereas the other federal parties have stated that they will refuse the right of barley producers choice, keeping us locked to an antiquated marketing system and continued poor net returns" concludes Nielsen

WBGA and its members thank Prime Minister Harper and Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat, for their continued pledge for marketing choice.

WBGA encourages all barley producers to visit our web site www.wbga.org and fill out a barley information form.

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For more information contact:

Jeff Nielsen
President ~ WBGA
Olds, AB
Cell: 403.556.0408
jeffniel@platinum.ca

Tom Hewson
Vice President ~ WBGA
Langbank, SK
Phone: 306.538.4572
hewws@xplornet.com

Doug McBain

Past President ~ WBGA
Cremona, AB
Cell: 403.816.0645
dmcbain@wbga.org