



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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Media Release

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WBGA welcome back the Honourable Gerry Ritz - Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food

Western Barley Grower Association (WBGA) members are pleased to hear the reappointment of Honourable Gerry Ritz as Canada's Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister.

"It is great to hear Minister Ritz remains at the helm of the agricultural portfolio" says Jeff Nielsen, President WBGA. Minister Ritz showed strong leadership in the past year and his reappointment means that agricultural has continuity in leadership and a clear signal from the Prime Minister that he wants critical agricultural files championed previously by Minister Ritz to move forward. The WBGA looks forward to working with Minister Ritz in ensuring the re-introduction of several Bills to Parliament that were lost when the federal election was called in September.

The Western Barley Growers have stressed that the government must move quickly and decisively on the key bills that have significant impacts to barley growers and barley value chain members. Priority areas include moving forward with reforms to the Canada Grain Act and the removal of barley from the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB).

In the October 16, 2007 Throne Speech the conservative government stated: "***Our government will recognize the views of farmers, as expressed in the recent plebiscite on barley, by enacting marketing choice.***" "We need to hear that same commitment in the upcoming Speech," continues Nielsen.

The WBGA looks forward to working closely with Minister Ritz and his staff, stated Nielsen. We hope to meet with the Minister to discuss the priorities of barley growers in the near future.

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