



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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For Immediate Release

WBGA APPLAUDS REVISIONS TO THE CANADA GRAINS ACT

Airdrie, Alberta, October 22, 2012 - The Western Barley Growers (WBGA) reacted today to the announcement from Federal Ag Minister Gerry Ritz on Thursday of changes they have made to the Canada Grains Act and the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC). "This announcement is a very positive one in the evolution of our grain system in Canada," says Doug Robertson, President of the WBGA. "During the consultations on the CGC this past year we were very clear that a modernization of the grain system in Canada had to take place so that we could be on a more level playing field with our global competitors. Along with a voluntary CWB, it is essential that we also update the Grain Commission and the Grains Act so that its' regulations also fit a more open market for all our grains and oilseeds. Since farmers are now in control of their marketing, they don't want to have to be paying for services they do not need or want, and one of those has been inward weighing and inspection charges".

The revisions announced include removing mandatory inward inspection, since most of the grain moved in this manner is between the same grain company's facilities. Leaving it up to the company to decide if they need the grain inspected, as well as other revisions to the CGC have been estimated to eliminate \$20 million in annual costs to the grain handling system - costs that are inevitably passed down to farmers. Another revision would improve producer protection and reduce licensing costs of facilities by creating the opportunity to move to a new credit insurance system.

"This is also a step in the right direction," says Martin Hall, WBGA Vice-President. "We did some work in this area a few years ago, and our study showed that credit insurance, which is already being used more and more by the industry, is a better and cheaper way to protect producers and the industry than what we have now. The ultimate goal would be for the industry to move to a Clearing House for Grains and Oilseeds, which would put the producer and the grain companies on equal footing in all transactions, and we hope someday to get that idea accepted by the grain industry."

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

For further comment, please contact:

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