



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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For immediate release

WBGA DISAPPOINTED IN RULING AND ENCOURAGE MINISTER RITZ AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO PRESS FORWARD WITH BILL C-18

AIRDRIE, AB – December 8, 2011: The ruling yesterday by Justice Douglas Campbell is disappointing but the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) encourages Minister Ritz to continue pressing forward with Bill C-18. “It is important that our agriculture industry receives a clear signal as soon as possible that the open market will be in place by August 1, 2012” says Brian Otto, President of the WBGA. “Farmers and the industry need to start forward contracting and pricing next year’s crop now and any delay in passing Bill C-18 will disrupt the marketing structure and create needless uncertainty in our industry”, continues Otto.

The WBGA believes that the intent of the “group of eight” monopoly directors is to slow down the passage of this legislation, create unnecessary confusion in our industry and make it impossible for a new CWB model to function in an open market. This is a selfish move by them to defend their own ideology at the expense of producers. Minister Ritz has stated that he intends to appeal yesterday’s decision. The WBGA supports him in this appeal and carrying forward with Bill C-18. The expectation of the WBGA is that the bill will pass through the Senate and receive royal assent before the end of this year.

“The group of eight’s” own legal Council has told them that this legal action will not stop the government from passing this legislation. At the end of the day the “group of eight” and the Friends of the CWB will have to answer to producers as to why they wanted to create uncertainty in the industry, disrupt the ability of producers to market next year’s crop and create unnecessary hardship for farmers”, says Otto.

Minister Ritz is right. Farmers are asking for marketing freedom. They are ready to move forward. The industry is prepared to move forward. It is time for the “group of eight” and the Friends of the CWB to start facing reality and stop hindering the progress of western Canadian agriculture.

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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