



## **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 www.wbga.org Email: wbga@wbga.org

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **WBGA WELCOME BACK HONOURABLE GERRY RITZ - MINISTER, AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD**

**Airdrie, AB – July 16, 2013** - The Western Barley Growers (WBGA) members are pleased to hear of 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 Doug Robertson, President WBGA.

Minister Ritz has shown strong leadership in the past year and his reappointment means that agricultural has continuity in leadership. "Minister Ritz has done much to advance and complete many long-standing agricultural issues" says Robertson. "His knowledge of our industry and his hands-on experience in agriculture is a significant asset in meeting the challenges we all face and his continued guidance of the Agriculture and Agri-Food sector is good news for farmers" continues Robertson.

Minister Ritz has shown real leadership on market access issues, opening up international markets and pushing for more access for Canadian agricultural products. Eliminating unfair and hidden trade barriers, getting access to new markets, and promoting innovation in agriculture products and trade have been issues he has especially concentrated on in his tenure.

"One of his Party's greatest triumphs, the removal of the long-standing CWB monopoly and the return of open marketing options for barley and wheat farmers on the Prairies, has resulted in one of the most successful and stress-free marketing years farmers have known in a very long time" continued Robertson.

"The WBGA and other farm groups look forward to working closely with Minister Ritz and his staff to help Canadian farmers be competitive and successful on the world stage".

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

For further comment, please contact:

Doug Robertson  
President ~ Western Barley Growers Association  
403.337.2077