



## 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](http://www.wbga.org) Email: [wbga@wbga.org](mailto:wbga@wbga.org)

### For Immediate Release

#### 2012 – 2013 BEST MARKETING YEAR FOR BARLEY EVER

**Airdrie, Alberta - August 6, 2013** - The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is very pleased with the overall success of the first year of Marketing Freedom. "This crop year has been the first one since September of 1943 that farmers have had the right to sell their own barley and wheat, and that is a milestone in Western Canadian agriculture", said Doug Robertson, President of the WBGA. "We had expected that there would be some bumps along the way this year, but instead it has been marked by a smoother transition to the open market than anyone could have predicted. As we suspected, both farmers and grain buyers were ready for the change and adapted very quickly and successfully - the higher prices this year were just a bonus."

On August 1, 2012, Bill C-18, *The Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act* was enacted by the Federal Conservative Government, ending the monopoly powers of the Canadian Wheat Board. Since that date farmers have been again allowed to sell their barley and wheat to any buyers, both within and outside of Canada.

"Because there are so many more choices for farmers now in where and especially when they can sell their grain, we are seeing a return to more wheat and barley acres, which is a benefit to our rotations," continues Robertson. "It has allowed for better cash flow planning for all crops, and that is crucial, because cash flow is critical on the farm. We have also seen farmers choosing to sell their grain in different ways than they had before, which has led to less need to use Producer Cars with the increased competition. We expect the system to continue to evolve over time".

"Another positive result has been the establishment of a number of farmer-run Commissions in both Alberta and Saskatchewan this year, as well as the beginning of the Barley Council of Canada, a national group of farmers, end-users and researchers who will be able to speak for and advance the Canadian barley industry as a whole. All in all it has been a very productive year, and we would like to thank the federal Conservative party, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Ag Minister Gerry Ritz for having the fortitude and perseverance to enact this Bill a year ago. Thanks to them, farmers are finally able to take control of their own industry".

*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 - WBGA  
403-337-2077