



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

CANADA'S BARLEY INDUSTRY GETS A BOOST FROM THE NEW TPP AGREEMENT

Airdrie, AB – October 6, 2015 - The announcement that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade Agreement has been negotiated is good news for farmers across the country, and barley farmers and the beef and pork industries they supply with quality feed grains are well positioned to benefit from the agreement.

"This negotiation has been going on for years, and Canada was fortunate to be included as one of the 12 Pacific countries participating in this historic agreement," said Doug Robertson, President of the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA). "It will allow barley farmers to have access to some of their favoured markets that were blocked by tariffs, subsidies and trade barriers in the past and open new ones for value-added grain products including meat. Our feeding industry has been hampered for years with trade barriers, and that has in turn affected the domestic barley feed grain market. Two-thirds of our barley right now is fed domestically. It's all interconnected, and farmers grow a range of crops, all which stand to see preferential market access now that the TPP agreement has been reached".

The TPP Agreement has advantages even in countries which Canada presently has Free Trade Agreements (FTA's) with. "There has been a real push to get FTA's with as many trading countries as possible since the World Trade Organization overall trade agreement failed," continues Robertson. "The best way to bring peace and prosperity to all the countries of the world is by fair trade agreements. You don't tend to go to war with countries you have good trade relations with, and it is critical to reduce trade barriers and impediments as much as possible. This deal is another step in that direction. Even with countries we presently have FTA's with; this deal further reduces impediments to trade."

"The WBGA congratulates Minister Ed Fast, the Canadian International Trade Minister, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and their negotiating teams for the hard work they have put into this agreement throughout the many years it has taken to get to this milestone. They have insured that Canadian farmers have the opportunity to expand their businesses and add value to the quality food products Canada exports to the world".

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
403-819-8372
dougarob@gmail.com