



## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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

#### WBGA WELCOMES NEW TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION

**Airdrie, Alberta, November 4, 2016** - The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is very pleased with the announcement by Federal Minister of Transport Marc Garneau regarding their Transportation 2030 strategic plan. Minister Garneau and Minister MacAulay pledged to "pursue new legislation that will allow reciprocal penalties in service level agreements between railway companies and their customers", and to "better define 'adequate and suitable' service in the Canada Transportation Act, and improve access to and timelines for Canadian Transportation Agency decisions".

"The proposed changes announced today by the ministers are what the WBGA has been promoting," said Doug Robertson, President of the WBGA. "Producers and grain companies have implemented changes to become more efficient and reliable in meeting global customer's needs. The problem has been the Railway Companies. They haven't been held accountable for not delivering railcars when, where and in the numbers they had contractually committed to. WBGA maintains that all participants in the grain value chain must be held financially accountable if they do not meet their contractual obligations. Introducing Reciprocal Penalties and a well-defined definition of 'adequate and suitable service', into the Transportation Act will hold all players accountable".

"The WBGA has always stood for a commercial, efficient grain transportation system that is driven by customer requirements and demand," continues Robertson. "Farmers cannot afford another transportation failure like we saw in the 2013/14 crop year where a big crop remained landlocked because of the poor performance of the Railways. This lack of performance damaged the international reputation of Canada with our global trading partners. Canada's national economic security rests with our ability to meet our export commitments and the expectations of our customers. We compliment both Transport Minister Garneau and Agriculture Minister MacAulay for responding to the pleas of farmers and all shippers with these necessary and forward-thinking steps".

*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  
[dougarob@gmail.com](mailto:dougarob@gmail.com)