



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

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CWB ACT WILL HELP FARMERS

Airdrie, AB - May 17, 2010: The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is encouraged by Federal Agriculture Minister Ritz's move to introduce legislative changes to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) Act. The proposed changes will require producers to have delivered a minimum of 40 tonnes of grain to be listed as a producer on the CWB voters' list and include new administrative processes which will result in faster payments to farmers.

"These are positive steps for farmers" states Brian Otto president of the WBGA. "Historically only 50 % of eligible voters vote in CWB district elections and this step should lead to more actual farmers participating in the elections".

"It is reasonable to require delivery of grain - in this case the minimum 40 tonnes - to demonstrate that you are an active producer and should be included on the CWB voters' list", adds Otto.

This proposed change does not disenfranchise those who do not have a record of delivering 40 tonnes. Those farmers are still eligible to get a ballot by filling out an affidavit along with proof of delivery of the minimum tonnage. While others have tried to politicize the changes to the voters list, it should be noted these changes to voter eligibility were recommended by farmers through the 2005 CWB Election Review Panel, appointed the previous Liberal government, and is supported by CWB board of directors.

Additionally, taking steps to get payments to farmers as quickly as possible is a very positive move. Farmers should receive payment for their grain as quickly as possible. Like any business, cash flow is a critical aspect of financial planning and management for farmers".

The WBGA urges the federal government to move quickly to bring these legislative changes into law. Finances are tough at the farm level and, as the recent Agriculture Canada survey showed, farm finances are expected to decline significantly in 2010. Getting farmers' money into their hands quickly and legitimizing voting in the upcoming CWB director elections should be a priority for all involved in the marketing of CWB grains.

[For more information contact:](#)

[Brian Otto](#)
[President](#) ~ WBGA
[Warner, AB](#)
[Cell: \(403\) 647-7661](#)
botto@mrcable.ca