



## 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

#### Barley Farmers Await A Decision On What Will Happen August 1

**July 26, 2007 ~ Airdrie, AB:** Today's barley farmers have spoken loud and clear that they want choice. Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) members were at the hearing in Calgary regarding the challenge to the governments' move to free barley farmers from the CWB monopoly. "Clear and concise arguments were heard by Madame Justice Hansen supporting barley farmers ability to move forward and see new marketing opportunities" States Jeff Nielsen, President WBGA. "The government showed it had full powers to repeal the extension of Part IV of the Act to barley yet keep it in Part III using the powers granted to the Governor in Council in Section 47. The Alberta government, in its arguments confirmed and supported the government's actions".

"As to choice, barley farmers know that this is a major move forward in improving our farm gate returns, continues Nielsen. CWB surveys have shown that farmers want choice, the recent barley plebiscite has showed this, and yet the CWB, two provincial governments and a group of so called Friends of the CWB are telling farmers that choice is wrong".

"The majority of barley farmers market barley out side of the CWB now, through the non board domestic market" says Nielsen. "Barley farmers cash flow is threatened by the actions of these groups, by asking the court to rule against progressive change and forcing barley farmers to remain under the monopoly of the CWB, prices will remain depressed and value added and growth in western Canada will continue to be stagnate".

"We saw how inefficient the CWB was to react to the drought of 2003 where domestic maltsters were forced to import barley to keep their business running. The barley was here, yet due to the marketing failure of the CWB, farmers sold their barley for feed, rather than as malt. This is happening again, with the refusal of the CWB to honour its contracts with our malting industry. And with the CWB board of directors refusing to work with barley producers and create a marketing plan for the new crop year's barley" continues Nielsen.

"The Canadian grain handling industry is ready, the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange is ready, farmers are seeing higher prices for both feed and malt for the new crop year" comments Tom Hewson, VP. "With choice starting August 1, we know we will see increased farm gate returns for western Canadian barley producers. Along with this brings growth in value added, growth and development potentials in our rural communities and strong relations with our industry partners.

"Furthermore, the CWB claims in court over the past two days that it is neither an agency of the government or a crown corporation. Yet in the past, and in the same federal court, the crown agreed with the CWB that it has no legal duty or care to farmers and that the CWB is only accountable and responsible to Parliament," concludes Nielsen.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Jeff Nielsen  
President ~ WBGA  
Olds, AB  
Phone: 403.556.3035  
Cell: 403.556.0408  
[jeffniel@platinum.ca](mailto:jeffniel@platinum.ca)

Tom Hewson  
Vice President ~ WBGA  
Langbank, SK  
Phone: 306.538.4572  
[hewws@xplornet.com](mailto:hewws@xplornet.com)

Doug McBain  
Past President ~ WBGA  
Cremona, AB  
Phone/Fax: 403.637.3880  
Cell: 403.816.0645  
[dmcbain@wbga.org](mailto:dmcbain@wbga.org)