



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

WBGA CALLS ON OTTAWATO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TO REMOVE BARLEY FROM THE CWB ACT

November 27, 2007 ~ Airdrie, AB: Today Canada's malting industry has called upon the government of Canada to implement marketing choice for barley as of August 1, 2008. The Malting Industry Association of Canada (MIAC) is calling for the immediate introduction of legislation allowing total deregulation of barley from the Canadian Wheat Board Act, as a result of the CWB failing to work with the Maltsters and the majority of producers that have voted for choice.

"As a grains and oilseed producer, I manage my business how I deem best. I grow malting barley varieties that two malting facilities within reach of my farm desire. Yet I have been able to get better prices and contracts with our livestock feeding sector" states Jeff Nielsen, President of the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA). "MIAC recognizes the need to build stronger relations with producers, offering secure contracts, showing price transparency and providing producers signals of their malt barley needs that we can provide".

"As a Saskatchewan malt barley producer, I am delighted with MIAC's release" says Art Walde, WBGA Saskatchewan Vice President and Kindersley area farmer. "Our new Saskatchewan government is a strong supporter of choice. That coupled with Alberta, we now have close to 100% of Canada's malt barley production. Time is at hand to move forward." continues Walde.

WBGA calls upon Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and the Canadian Wheat to introduce legislation as soon as possible. Although currently appealing the July 31 reversal of the government wishes for barley choice, introducing and enacting legislative reforms will not interfere with the court hearing yet will ensure marketing choice.

WBGA also asks the board of directors at the CWB to respect and honour the wishes of western Canadian barley producers, now our industry players, in allowing choice marketing.

"The directors at the CWB have the ability to move barley into a choice environment. They have chosen not to and now risk serious harm to our Malting industry. Due to years of interference, no expansion or creation of value added has happened here on the prairies. This has come at the same time as new malt plants have been built south of the border. The CWB now threatens the very existence of the malt production here in western Canada" concludes Nielsen.

WBGA encourages all barley producers to visit our web site www.wbga.org and fill out a barley information form.

-30-

For more information contact:

Jeff Nielsen
President ~ WBGA
Olds, AB
Cell: 403.556.0408
jeffniel@platinum.ca

Tom Hewson
Vice President ~ WBGA
Langbank, SK
Phone: 306.538.4572
hewws@explornet.com

Art Walde
Saskatchewan Vice President ~ WBGA
Kindersley, SK
Phone: 306.463.3302
art.farm@sasktel.net