



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Welcome Minister Ritz's Appointment as Ag Minister

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association congratulates Hon. Gerry Ritz on his re-appointment as the federal Minister of Agriculture.

"Gerry knows the issues that are important to western farmers," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. "He's up to speed and will be able to hit the ground running."

While there are many issues facing agriculture, the key to improving farm incomes in western Canada will be to move forward on legislation to create a voluntary Canadian Wheat Board (CWB).

"This government has a fresh mandate to move forward on the CWB issue," says Mike Bast, Chair of the Wheat Growers. "The appointment of Minister Ritz is a signal to farmers that this government is determined to move quickly on providing us with marketing choice."

The Wheat Growers will also be looking to Minister Ritz to take action on other important files, including modernization of the variety registration system, completion of the rail service review, Canadian Grain Commission reforms and promoting competition and free trade in chemicals, fertilizer and seed.

"There's great potential in the western Canadian agriculture sector," concludes Jolly-Nagel. "Getting the policy environment right will go a long way to unlocking that potential."

For further comment, please contact:

Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel
President
(306) 354-2517

Mike Bast
Chair
(204) 330-0053

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