

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

Parliamentary cooperation provides reason for optimism – Grain Growers

As farmers prepare to plant this spring, the Grain Growers of Canada are hard at work lobbying for trade deals and reduced barriers to expand market access for Canada's agricultural producers.

"Farmers have a reason to be optimistic this spring," said Doug Robertson, president of the Grain Growers of Canada. "The government's successful trade mission to China will reap enormous economic benefits for Canadian farmers."

Recently, the Grain Growers of Canada actively lobbied NDP and Liberal MPs to "pair" with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Gerry Ritz so that he could go on a vital trade mission to China. Without being paired with opposition members, Ritz would have been forced to cancel the trip.

According to the April 22 Western Producer, the trade mission could increase pulse sales to China from \$100 to \$500 million. Trade agreements for pulses, malting barley, canola and purebred swine genetics could be worth \$700 to \$800 million in sales annually.

"We as farmers really appreciate the Minister's efforts and the cooperation of the Opposition parties on this important trade mission," said Robertson. "Without everyone working together, Canada could not have achieved these successes."

"The fact is over 90 per cent of Canadian farmers rely on exports or export prices to be successful and this deal is very good news indeed."

The Grain Growers of Canada represent over 80,000 successful farmers through its membership organizations who grow wheat, oats, barley, canola, corn, peas, lentils and triticale.

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