

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – TUESDAY AUGUST 17, 2010**

**Farmers Urge Federal Government to Invest in Research and Food Safety**

The Grain Growers of Canada submitted its annual submission for pre-budget consultation on Friday calling on the Government of Canada to invest in public research, establish a certified seed tax credit, and adjust the capital cost allowance on grain storage to help improve food safety.

“Public research continues to be the top priority for farmers across the country,” said Doug Robertson, President of the Grain Growers of Canada. “We risk losing our top researchers in A-Base and cereal research to attrition due to a lack of investment. Canada is falling behind the rest of the world. It is becoming a crisis.”

Real government dollars in basic agronomic research have fallen from 458 million to 280 million since 1994. By 2012, 95% of private sector research will be in corn, canola and soybeans with minimal funding in cereals and pulses.

“The Grain Growers are also continuing to recommend a certified seed tax credit to help increase private research into cereal crops,” said Robertson. “A key challenge to attract investment into cereal research is the fact only about 20% of the seed used is certified, so a small number of farmers carry much of the burden for research funding.”

The Grain Growers have also called for a capital cost allowance adjustment to give greater incentive for farmers to invest in grain storage. Testing has been increased for mycotoxins in grains, oilseeds and pulses in the past few years and often can be used by other countries to block market access.

“Farmers want to do our part to help improve the safety of our crops for Canadians,” said Robertson. “Investments in tools like aeration will ensure grain stays in top condition until processed.”

An application to appear at the Standing Committee of Finance to discuss these proposals has been submitted.

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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