

GRAIN GROWERS
OF CANADA



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For Immediate Release:

Grain Growers pleased with details on Agricultural Research Funding given changes in wheat and barley marketing

(Thursday, Nov 10th, 2011) – The Grain Growers of Canada (GGC), representing tens of thousands of Canadian grain farmers, is pleased to see the details released today on the Governments' Agri-Innovation Funding program.

“With the end of the wheat and barley monopoly, there is a real and immediate need to get working on a national value chain,” said Richard Phillips, Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada. “This program will be very valuable in helping growers and other industry players get organized and ensure we support wheat and barley going forward. Other industry value chains like pulses and beef have been very successful.”

GGC Members:

Atlantic Grains Council

Alberta Barley Commission

Alberta Grain Commission

Alberta Oat Rye &
Triticale Association

Alberta Pulse Growers

Alberta Winter Wheat
Producers Commission

British Columbia Grain
Producers Association

Canadian Canola
Growers Association

Manitoba Corn Growers
Association

Prairie Oat Growers
Association

Western Barley
Growers Association

Western Canadian
Wheat Growers Assoc.

The Innovation Strategy Development fund will facilitate national value chain development including consultations, market research, business planning, communications, workshops, administration and coordination services, Applied Science, Technology Development and Piloting Projects will fund activities that foster collaboration between the private sector and/or academic labs. It will help industry access the applied scientific research and development expertise and resources needed to accelerate the development of new products, practices and processes. Projects will lead to the successful transformation of innovative ideas and prototypes into new technologies.

“We are also pleased to see our push for private-public partnerships moving ahead as this is something the Grain Growers have wanted to see for quite some time,” said Phillips. “The other gap that is addressed within this new program is that good ideas will have ample opportunity to move forward within the value-added sector. When we add value, we add jobs and that is good for everyone in our industry.”

The Commercialization Stream will provide new opportunities for-profit companies, co-operatives and organizations with repayable funding for agri-based projects that commercialize and/or adopt innovative agricultural, agri-food or agri-based products, technologies, processes and services; helping to establish, expand, or modernize a facility to commercialize or adopt innovative agricultural, agri-food or agri-based products, technologies, processes or services for domestic and/or international markets; and implement marketing opportunities related to the commercialization or adoption project.

“The Grain Growers of Canada have lobbied hard over the last several years for more investment in the agriculture sector,” said Phillips. “This model looks like it will attract significant private sector and entrepreneurial dollars to the table and that means even more research and innovation will be created.”

The Grain Growers represent successful wheat, oat, barley, corn, canola, pea, lentil, rye and triticale farmers from across Canada.

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