

news release

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**Alberta Barley Commission warns
Proposed user fee changes will be borne
by farmers**

Calgary, AB (January 31, 2011)—The Alberta Barley Commission recently participated in the Canadian Grain Commission’s (CGC) user fees consultation. The government of Canada has indicated that the CGC seeks to achieve full cost recovery by the 2012- 2013 fiscal year. Currently, CGC’s cost recovery is less than 50 percent with the Canadian government contributing the shortfall.

“If this cost recovery takes place as suggested, then an average prairie farm of 1,500 acres at a tonne per acre would have additional CGC fees of about \$2,300 every year,” says Richard Phillips, Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada. “If phased in over 10 years, this would be an increase annually of \$230 per year. In the meantime, the CGC needs to lay out a business case for all Canadians on the value they provide.”

The CGC provides a number of invaluable services such as unbiased third-party grading, quality certification, and quality research,” says Mike Leslie, CE of the Alberta Barley Commission. “While we recognize the importance of these ser-

vices to farmers, there are a number of ‘public good’ issues at play as well. *All* Canadians benefit from the safety assurance and reputation for consistent quality guaranteed by the CGC. Therefore, it is realistic that all Canadian taxpayers continue to pay for the services provided by the CGC—not farmers alone.

Canada’s only barley commission, the Alberta Barley Commission is a not-for-profit organization directed, funded, and controlled by the province’s 17,000 barley producers. The Commission coordinates and sponsors research, market development, technology transfer and policy development on behalf of its producers.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Mike Leslie, EO, Alberta Barley Commission, at 403-281-4802.

