



912, 350 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, ON, K1R 7S8  
Ph: 613-233-9954

[www.ggc-pgc.ca](http://www.ggc-pgc.ca)

#### **GGC Members:**

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Association

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Growers Association

Western Canadian  
Wheat Growers Assoc.

## **For Immediate Release:**

### **Morocco and Canada - Win\Win Free Trade Talks**

**(Thursday, January 27, 2011 Rabat, Morocco)** - The Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) are very pleased with today's announcement of formal negotiations working towards a free trade agreement (FTA) between Canada and Morocco.

"Having our Prime Minister and our Minister of Agriculture here in Morocco sends a clear message that Canada is open to business," says Richard Phillips, Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada. "Their import and export interests are ready and eager to do business with us, as we are with them."

The Grain Growers of Canada believes that a Free Trade Agreement with Morocco, a country that is rapidly modernizing, will be an important foot in the door to the North African market place and the GGC appreciates the Canadian Government's strong support in this area.

Canada has traditionally exported large volumes of durum wheat to Morocco and has steadily been increasing its lentil exports as well.

Phillips observed the local economy on the ground. "In a local market today, we met several merchants who were proudly selling Canadian lentils and were excited to meet us when we told them we were from Canada," says Phillips. "Because they are happy with our agriculture products, they are promoting our goods directly to Moroccan consumers."

The Grain Growers of Canada are in Morocco, accompanying Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of Agriculture and AgriFood Gerry Ritz, Pulse Canada, the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance and the Canadian Wheat Board. The GGC is participating in these very important trade negotiations to help demonstrate Canada's commitment to this FTA. The importance of these meetings is highlighted, as the United States recently concluded a deal with Morocco that could put Canadian producers at a substantial tariff disadvantage in a few short years.

Representing over 80,000 successful farmers, the philosophy of the Grain Growers of Canada is that it is essential for Government to work with farmers on issues like market access, tariff and non-tariff trade barriers. Canadian farmers produce top quality food and welcome the chance to compete fairly anywhere in the world.

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#### **For more information:**

**Richard Phillips (available by email in Morocco)**  
**Executive Director**  
**Grain Growers of Canada**  
[phillips@ggc-pgc.ca](mailto:phillips@ggc-pgc.ca)  
**613-233-9954**