



**news release**

*for immediate release...*

## **Barley growers support the Senate's interest in ag research and innovation**

**Calgary, AB (February 23, 2011)** – The Canadian Senate approved a motion last week authorizing their Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to examine and report on research and innovation in the agricultural sector.

“This is a real win for agriculture,” says Alberta Barley Commission CEO Mike Leslie. “Investment in research and innovation is a key element of our commitment to making decisions based on sound science. The Senate’s efforts to understand our priorities speak strongly about our Senators’ commitment to agriculture.”

The Standing Committee was specifically authorized to examine research and development efforts in the context of developing new markets, enhancing agricultural sustainability and improving food diversity and security.

“These areas are all priorities for Alberta’s barley growers,” explains Commission Chair Matt Sawyer, a farmer from Acme, Alberta. “Our goal is to be innovative while also meeting the needs of the world’s growing population for a sustainable food supply.”

The decision is also applauded by the Grain Growers of Canada:

“Canadian farmers are sustainably producing more food with fewer resources than ever before,” says Stephen Vandervalk, President of the Grain Growers of Canada. “This is largely because of research in new seed varieties and biotechnology, but there are also big gains to be made in nutrient utilization and soil science, which will also help Canadian farmers compete in the global marketplace.

“It’s not just about funding, this will also be about food safety, quality and how we can do our part in providing food to a growing global population.”

*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.*

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