



**Alberta
Barley**

April 12, 2014

Attention: Policy Unit
Canadian Grain Commission
600 - 303 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3G8

**Re: Delivery of Export Grain Inspection and Quality Assurance Deduction
Stakeholder Consultation**

Alberta Barley, a farmer-directed, not-for-profit organization representing Alberta's barley farmers, is pleased to have the opportunity to provide feedback to the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) on the proposed changes to outward inspection services and fees, along with the proposed introduction of a Quality Assurance Deduction.

We have reviewed the discussion papers provided by the CGC and support the Commission's desire to create a funding model that is more transparent and equitable – ensuring that those who benefit from CGC activities are paying for those activities. It is for that reason that Alberta Barley recommends that the costs related to the CGC activities, as outlined on page 3 of the Quality Assurance Deduction discussion paper, not be passed to producers, be it directly, in the form of a point-of-sale deduction, or indirectly through grain company basis fees. Instead, Alberta Barley recommends that all of the costs associated with CGC activities currently covered by outward inspection fees, be publically funded. We believe that the public good is substantially greater than 9% of the Canadian Grain Commission's budget.

Farmers are tax payers and are proud to support public initiatives that make a meaningful contribution to the Canadian economy and to the well-being of their fellow Canadians. Canada's agriculture and agri-food system makes a significant contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment, directly providing one in eight jobs, employing 2.1 million people and accounting for 8.0% of total GDP (AAFC, 2013).

Alberta Barley sees value in the services that the CGC provides and for that reason believes that the CGC should continue to be the sole provider of accredited outward inspection services.

With regards to the proposed introduction of the Quality Assurance Deduction - like all producer funded organizations, Alberta Barley relies on funding from a mandatory but refundable check-off, deducted at the point of sale. Any additional deductions added to a producer's cash purchase ticket, especially non-refundable deductions such as the proposed Quality Assurance Deduction, threaten the existence of organizations such as Alberta Barley, which serve to represent the interests of their producer members.

CGC is a valued part of Canada's quality assurance program. The demand for Canadian grain is increasing, especially as new international markets open, with the promise of new opportunities that will benefit farmers, rural communities and the Canadian economy overall.

We at Alberta Barley are available for further discussion on this matter, and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Sawyer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Sawyer
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture