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#### **GGC Members:**

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Western Barley  
Growers Association

Western Canadian  
Wheat Growers Assoc.

## **For Immediate Release:**

### **Trans Pacific Partnership will open new markets for farmers: Grain Growers**

**(Tuesday, June 19, 2012, Ottawa)** “Moving the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) ahead today is a huge achievement by the federal government and a big move forward in their aggressive trade agenda which we fully support,” says Stephen Vandervalk, President of the Grain Growers of Canada. “We are extremely pleased with this development as Canada’s membership in the TPP will mean new markets and a strengthening of existing markets for Canadian farmers.”

Today from Los Cabos, Mexico Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Canada now has all member support for entry into the Trans Pacific Partnership. The TPP is an Asia-Pacific regional trade agreement that includes many of Canada’s key export markets and export competitors including Australia, New Zealand, the U.S., Chile, Peru, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Brunei. TPP member countries estimated combined GDP is approximately \$22.44 trillion.

“Joining the Trans Pacific Partnership is a major step towards Canada integrating into more trade relationships with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region,” explains Richard Phillips, Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada. “With over 90% of farmers’ dependent on export markets or prices for their farm gate income, we recognise a real opportunity in the Asia-Pacific’s growing population and growing middle class which are looking for the high quality agriculture products that our Canadian farmers are producing.”

“Branching into new markets in Asia through the TPP represents a great opportunity for Canadian farmers. We can expand access for our canola, pulses, soybeans, malt barley and wheat, for both whole grains and value added products” says Vandervalk. “With demand for beef and pork in the Pacific Rim on the rise in the past decade, this will provide a much needed boost for our meat industry, which will also benefit Canadian grain farmers.”

*Representing tens of thousands of successful wheat, durum, barley, canola, oat, corn, pea, lentil, rye and triticale farmers, the Grain Growers of Canada is well known as the national voice of Canadian grain farmers. Please visit [www.graingrowers.ca](http://www.graingrowers.ca) .*

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