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CMBTC Receives \$1.95 million in AgriMarketing Funding

WINNIPEG – The Government of Canada is investing \$1.95 million over five years in the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC) under the Growing Forward II AgriMarketing Program (AMP). The Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, and Member of Parliament for Saint Boniface made the announcement at a press conference today in Winnipeg.

“The funding through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) will help support the activities of the CMBTC which is focused on the commercialization of Canadian malting barley and malt destined for the domestic and global brewing industries”, said Steve Goossen, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the CMBTC.

The CMBTC includes pilot malting and brewing facilities that evaluate the processing quality of new crop and new varieties of Canadian malting barley. “This globally recognized organization provides value-added services to our members and customers around the world that is unique to Canada” according to Peter Watts, Managing Director of the CMBTC. “We welcome the funding support from AAFC to help Canada remain the premier supplier of malting barley to domestic and international markets.”

Canada is one of the world’s largest suppliers of malting barley and malt to the global brewing industry and Canadian farmers are recognized for producing some of the world’s finest quality malting barley. The malting barley, malt and brewing industries contribute significantly to the Canadian economy. According to Statistics Canada, in 2013-14 Canada exported over 1.0 million tonnes of malting barley worth CDN \$337 million, and 600,000 tonnes of malt worth CDN \$395 million.

Domestically, Canadian brewers use about 230,000 tonnes of malt per year to make over 19 million hectoliters of beer. The beer economy supports 1 in every 100 jobs in Canada and generates over \$5.8 billion in tax revenues each year according to the Conference Board of Canada.

The CMBTC is an independent, non-profit organization operating since 2000 that is funded by members of the malting barley, malt and brewing industries, producers and the Government of Canada to conduct applied malting and brewing research and provide technical support to members and customers. The CMBTC facilities include a state-of-the-art pilot malting plant and pilot brewery located in the Canadian Grain Commission building in Winnipeg.

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