

NEWS RELEASE

New Partner Joins Farmer and Value Chain Organizations Supporting Bill C-18

-Atlantic Grains Council-

Ottawa, Friday, April 11, 2014 - *Partners in Innovation*, a coalition of farmer, industry and value chain organizations is pleased to welcome the Atlantic Grains Council to its membership. "We support the modernization of Plant Breeders' Rights through Bill C-18. We believe it will facilitate a greater overall investment in plant breeding, research and variety development by private and public stakeholders, including farmers," says Allan Ling, Atlantic Grains Council Chairman.

Partners in Innovation supports Bill C-18, the Canadian Agricultural Growth Act, which is currently at Second Reading in the House of Commons. The legislation will bring Canada's outdated legislation into compliance with an international agreement, the Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV 91) and will give both public and private plant breeders the confidence and ability to invest in new improved seed varieties needed by farmers. Canada is one of only two developed country members which have not ratified this convention, currently putting Canadian plant breeders and farmers at a competitive disadvantage.

"With up-to-date Plant Breeders' Rights legislation in Canada, we are hopeful that suitable international seed varieties will potentially become available for evaluation, testing and commercial use in our region, helping Atlantic farmers with our unique agronomic challenges," says Ling.

The *Atlantic Grains Council* is the only regional organization representing grain and oilseed producers in Atlantic Canada, the Atlantic Grains Council's objectives include advancing and promoting research within the sector, and developing stronger linkages with end use customers.

Partners in Innovation is a group of leading Canadian farmer and agricultural organizations, which represent farmers and the value chain. Working together, the coalition supports updated seed variety protection for plant breeders, helping Canadian farmers and our agricultural industry become more competitive in the global market.

For more information on Partners in Innovation please visit:

Web: www.partnersininnovation.ca

Twitter: @CdnAgInnovation

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For Information please contact:

Allan Ling, Chairman, Atlantic Grains Council, Tel : 902-628-9727

Partners in Innovation:

New Member of Coalition: Atlantic Grains Council 

Alberta Barley Commission



Canadian Seed Trade Assoc.



Barley Council of Canada



Grain Farmers of Ontario



Canadian Horticulture Council



Manitoba Pulse Growers Assoc.



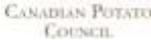
Canadian Ornamental
Horticulture Alliance



The Prairie Oat Growers Assoc.



Canadian Potato Council



Western Canadian Wheat Growers



Fédération des Producteurs de
Cultures Commerciales du Québec



Grain Growers of Canada

