

News Release

Canada takes place on world stage with ratification of UPOV 91 Convention

Ottawa: Monday, June 22 – The members of Partners in Innovation are celebrating the final step in the process to place Canada’s agricultural sector firmly on the world stage. Canada’s formal ratification of the 1991 convention of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) sends the message to the world that Canada is open for national and international investment.

Partners in Innovation brings together 20 provincial, regional and national organizations from all across Canada. The organizations represent the vast majority of farmers in Canada, and almost all of the crop production in all regions of the country.

The Partners have been united in their support of amendments to Canada’s *Plant Breeders’ Rights* legislation as found in Bill C-18, the *Agricultural Growth Act*. Immediately following Royal Assent of Bill C-18 on February 27, new varieties of wheat, oats, flax, and potatoes, that would never have come to Canada without the updates to Canada’s *Plant Breeders’ Rights* legislation, have become available. The formal ratification of the 1991 UPOV Convention on June 19 confirms to the world that Canada supports an agricultural sector that is sustainable and competitive and that investment is welcome domestically and internationally.

"Implementation of updated Plant Breeders’ Rights legislation in Canada has already spurred needed investment in Canadian cereals research, said Cam Dahl, President, Cereals Canada. "I expect more announcements in the days and weeks to come."

Dave Baute, President, Canadian Seed Trade Association, added, "We have been operating under the UPOV 1991 Convention since February, but now it has been announced to the world. After 22 years of hard work, Canada’s formal ratification of the 1991 UPOV Convention places the agricultural sector solidly on the world stage and confirms that the door is open for international and domestic collaboration and innovation."

With Canada’s ratification of the 1991 UPOV convention, members of Partners in Innovation will do their part to drive innovation across the agricultural sector and will work with our international partners to make new and innovative varieties available to farmers in Canada and around the world.

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Contact: info@partnersininnovation.ca or [any member of Partners in Innovation](#)

Partners in Innovation is a coalition of 20 provincial, regional and national organizations from all across Canada. The coalition was founded by a group of leading Canadian farmer and agricultural organizations which joined forces to support Canadian government legislation intended to improve Plant Breeders’ Rights in Canada.



Partners in Innovation



Alberta Barley



Alberta Pulse Growers Commission



Alberta Wheat Commission



Atlantic Grains Council



Barley Council of Canada



British Columbia Grain Producers Association



Canadian Canola Growers Association



Canadian Federation of Agriculture



Canadian Horticultural Council



Canadian Ornamental Horticulture Alliance



Canadian Potato Council



Canadian Seed Trade Association



Cereals Canada

Cereals Canada



Fédération des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec



Grain Farmers of Ontario



Grain Growers of Canada



Manitoba Pulse Growers Association



Mustard 21



Prairie Oat Growers Association



Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association

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