



News Release

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WILSON CONGRATULATES CALGARY COMPANY EXPANDING FOR MEXICAN MARKET

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, welcomed today the official opening of Canada Malting Co. Limited's new \$20-million Malt Handling and Shipping Facility in Calgary.

The new facility is the latest addition to one of the largest and most efficient malting plants in North America. The plant produces 165,000 tonnes of malt a year, more than 70 per cent of which is shipped to Japan and South Korea.

"As this country's largest producer of malted barley for brewers and one of the largest in the world, Canada Malting is a true example of Canadian entrepreneurship at its best," Mr. Wilson said.

He noted that company officials had informed him that the expanded plant is ideally located to serve a growing Mexican market worth about \$100 million.

"Having just come from yesterday's official signing ceremony of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in San Antonio, Texas, I am especially pleased to visit a Canadian company that stands to benefit from the NAFTA," the Minister said.

Mr. Wilson emphasized that under the NAFTA, Mexico will remove immediately, once the agreement has been ratified, its discretionary import licences for grains and malt, thereby opening up the market to Canadian exports. He noted that tariffs on these commodities will also be phased out over 10 years, and in the meantime Canadian barley and malt exporters have access to the Mexican market under special tariff rate quotas (TRQ).

"The NAFTA is a significant step in opening new markets and opportunities for our exporters, thereby strengthening our trade performance and contributing to a healthy Canadian economy," the Minister said.

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