

## **New Leaf Essentials East brings new jobs to Slemon Park**

**Slemon Park, Prince Edward Island, March 8, 2017** – Now that Prince Edward Island native Chris Chivilo is a successful pulse processor and trader out west with his company WA Grain Holdings Inc., he wants to do the same in his home province.

The Charlottetown Rural High School graduate has created New Leaf Essentials East, an Island-based subsidiary of WA Grain Holdings Inc. It will contract with local farmers to produce about 5,000 acres of field peas and process them at its newly purchased facility in Slemon Park, creating up to a dozen new jobs in the province and increasing our export potential.

“This province has a deep agricultural history, thousands of experienced growers, a dedicated workforce, and an ideal season for growing the crops we process,” Chivilo said. “It’s also my home province and we see tremendous potential for growth here, which is why we’re so pleased to be opening New Leaf Essentials East in Slemon Park.”

Chivilo left Prince Edward Island for the west in 1983 when he was 21 years old. His company WA Grain Holdings Inc. has locations and partnerships in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec.

“This is great news for the Summerside region and local farmers, and it supports our efforts to expand exports, increase the GDP, and create jobs,” Minister of Economic Development and Tourism Heath MacDonald said. “New Leaf Essentials is a great example of how ambitious, hard-working Islanders make our province mighty by turning their big dreams into reality.”

Some of the peas New Leaf Essentials East will process at the former potato chip plant in Slemon Park will be used in pet and aquaculture foods and others will be exported whole. So far the company has about 3,000 acres under contract with nearly 50 farmers. Their target for 2017 is 5000 acres.

“Field peas are very good for soil composition and sustainability and give farmers an excellent option for healthy annual crop rotations,” Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Alan McIsaac said. “New Leaf Essentials East’s pea production will bring returns similar to those seen with soybean production, which is great news that will further add to our reputation as Canada’s Food Island.”

“The addition of New Leaf Essentials East will add jobs in the Summerside region and breathe new life into an underused facility in Slemon Park,” Rural and Regional Development Minister Pat Murphy said. “The benefits of this new enterprise will be felt in rural Prince Edward Island and the agricultural community for years to come.”

Farmers interested in learning more about New Leaf Essentials East can visit [www.wagrains.ca](http://www.wagrains.ca).

### **For broadcast use:**

An Island native is returning to his home province to start a business growing and processing field peas. Chris Chivilo’s company New Leaf Essentials East will contract with local farmers to grow field peas and process them at the former potato chip plant in Slemon Park. The company plans to produce about 5,000 acres of field peas this summer and add up to twelve new jobs by harvest season.

Economic Development and Tourism Minister Heath MacDonald says the addition of the new company is welcome news for local farmers and the regional economy.

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