

1. Elimination of Deposit Requirement for the CAIS Program

Whereas the deposit requirement of the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program serves to increase the administration costs of the program, and

Whereas it also places a further financing burden on farmers,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby the federal government to eliminate the deposit requirement of the CAIS Program.

2. Cash Advance Program

Whereas the cash advance program is a useful tool to help farmers meet the needs of their cashflow and marketing plans, and

Whereas the cash advance program is an efficient and WTO-green way of providing support to Canadian farmers, and

Whereas the interest-free portion has remained at the \$50,000 level for many years, and

Whereas this amount no longer reflects the size and scope of today's farming operations,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby the federal government to increase the interest-free portion of the cash advance program.

3. Marketing Choice

Whereas for the past two crop years, the Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board (OWPMB) has allowed Ontario farmers to sell any amount of wheat they wish to either their Board or any other buyer they choose, effectively giving them a Voluntary Wheat Board, yet Prairie farmers have no such freedom available to them even though the Canadian Wheat Board Act supposedly applies equally across Canada, and

Whereas this action by the OWPMB has resulted in Record planting and harvests of wheat in Ontario, including 100,000 acres of Hard Red Spring Wheat, and has led to wheat exports to the U.S. from Ontario of more than double that of previous monopoly years, and

Whereas thanks to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) "advantage" enjoyed by Prairie farmers, the number of wheat acres across the Prairies has dropped by 10 million acres in the past 20 years, and diversification into every other commodity the CWB doesn't market has soared, as farmers abandoned the Board and voted in the only democratic way they could – with their seed drills, and

Whereas instead of disappearing, as the CWB alleges, the OWPMB still markets a significant portion of Ontario's wheat, and their last year's final payment on HRS wheat came in at \$42 / mt. more than the CWB will be paying a farmer in Saskatchewan, and

Whereas all barley exports are down 70% in the past 10 years, and the amount of feed barley in this total now makes CWB sales participation irrelevant except for their depression of the domestic price, and

Whereas Canada's trade negotiators have made it very clear that the monopoly powers and lack of transparency of the CWB, and the Federal government's guarantees on CWB borrowing and initial payments have no support at WTO negotiations, and will have to be eliminated,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA continue to lobby the Federal Government, the only one standing in the way of a Voluntary Canadian Wheat Board, to take the initiative and institute one immediately, and that such a Voluntary Board must be one that would be more acceptable to our trading partners.

4. CWB Pricing Options

Whereas the pricing options introduced by the CWB in recent years have provided farmers with greater flexibility in our marketing programs, and

Whereas the WCWGA were instrumental in bringing about these pricing options, and

Whereas the CWB has recently announced its decision to change the rules midstream, and has indicated that grain committed under fixed price and basis contracts must be delivered and settled within the same crop year, and

Whereas this policy change reduces pricing options and potential income for farmers,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA insist that the CWB restore the ability of farmers to settle forward pricing contracts in the crop year of his or her choosing.

5. Governance of the Canadian Wheat Board

Whereas the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) director elections have suffered from poor turnout and mismanagement, and

Whereas the present voting structure for the CWB elections is unbalanced, unfair, and does not accurately reflect the farmers' individual stake in the operations of the CWB,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby the Government of Canada and the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board to conduct an independent review of the CWB governance structure, including the elections procedure, and

Further be it resolved that the WCWGA push to amend the elections procedures to give farmers voting rights in proportion to their stake in the Board marketing system.

6. Marketing Wheat on a Dry Matter Basis

Whereas the categories established by the Canadian Grain Commission for "dry", "tough" and "damp" grain do not accurately compensate for the true value of the grain, and

Whereas a producer delivering grain below 14.5% moisture is subsidizing other producers or elevator companies having grain in excess of 14.5% moisture,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers advocate changes within Canada's grain grading and marketing system that would allow wheat to be purchased from farmers on a dry matter basis.

7. Grain Grading

Whereas wheat that has acceptable milling characteristics is often downgraded to the feed category, and

Whereas advances in technology and changes in consumer demand are giving processors the ability and desire to use grain that exhibits a wide variety of quality traits, and

Whereas the kernel visual distinguishability (KVD) criteria limits the development of new grain varieties and new markets,

Therefore be it resolved that Canada's grading and marketing system be changed to allow for grain to be purchased on the basis of its quality attributes, as opposed to its visual characteristics.

8. Cash Commodity Clearing Houses

Whereas significant financial risks exist in the methods currently used for cash commodity transactions; and

Whereas a clearing house facility could be charged with registering and monitoring trade in standard form cash contracts, providing assurances for both buyers and sellers regarding the fulfillment of each party's obligations pursuant to said contract;

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby within the cash commodity farming industry to create clearing house facilities which use standard form cash contracts designed and approved by industry peers.

9. Enhancement of Value-Added Opportunities

Whereas adding value to primary agriculture production is essential to the economy of western Canada, and

Whereas adding value to agriculture production in western Canada increases market access and value for farmers, and

Whereas significant barriers exist in western Canada which discourage the growth of value added industries

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA work with the federal government and provincial governments of Western Canada to identify and remove existing barriers to the growth of value added industries in Western Canada.

10. Elimination of Export Subsidies

Whereas the European Union continues to use export subsidies to support domestic production, and

Whereas these export subsidies reduce world price levels and cause direct injury to Western Canadian farmers, and

Whereas the elimination of export subsidies must be achieved as part of a larger international trade pact through the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby for the immediate end to the use of export subsidies, and

Further be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby the Ministers of International Trade and Agriculture and Agri-Food to press vigorously toward achieving a successful and timely conclusion to the Doha Round.

11. World Trade Organization Framework Agreement

Whereas Canada and 147 Countries of The World Trade Organization (WTO) have signed a comprehensive framework agreement including agriculture trade to reduce tariffs and eliminate government guarantees on credit and payments by State Trading Enterprises (STE's), and

Whereas Canada signed the WTO Framework including an agreement to negotiate the end of monopoly power to STE's, and

Whereas the WCWGA recognizes that a consensus agreement by all 148 countries in the WTO is a rare and difficult accomplishment and that Canada is dependant on open markets as an exporting nation, and

Whereas reduction in tariffs by all countries will be a benefit to Canadian Producers, and

Whereas ending the government guarantees on credit to STE's and initial payments will have minimum effect on Canadian farmers, and

Whereas ending the monopoly power of State Trading Enterprises, like the CWB, would be a benefit to prairie farmers and of no consequence to the rest of Canada,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA support the WTO framework agreement and that Canada should work towards implementing this agreement as soon as possible.

12. WTO Compliance

Whereas the WTO dispute settlement body recently made a ruling on certain provisions that presently grant domestic grain more favourable treatment in our bulk handling system than imported grain, and

Whereas Western farmers have much to gain from a less protectionist trade policy,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA encourages the Federal Government of Canada to move immediately to address WTO concerns that imported grain receives less favourable treatment than that granted to domestic grain, and

Further be it resolved that the WCWGA support efforts by Canada to honour the spirit as well as the strict legal requirements of trade agreements.

13. Matters Relating to Pesticide Registration

Whereas there are significant costs associated with the registration of pesticide products in multiple jurisdictions, and

Whereas these costs are borne in part by farmers,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency and other relevant regulatory bodies to harmonize pesticide registration among our trading partners.

14. Plant Breeding Research

Whereas research in plant breeding affects the success or failure of Primary Agriculture, and

Whereas a strong Primary Agriculture Industry is needed to support Value-added Secondary Agriculture, and

Whereas farmers have stepped up to the plate with research dollars for funding research in plant breeding, to maintain a publicly funded, unbiased research program, and

Whereas at a time when Federal Government support is needed most in Plant Research, the Federal Government has now chosen to cut funding and support, which will have an undesirable effect on the direction and intensity of agricultural research and development in Canada,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby the Federal Government to reverse their position and to put more money back into Plant Research, in keeping with the principle of the Agricultural Policy Framework, that is, to give farmers the opportunity to increase the profitability of their farms, and

Further be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby all levels of government to provide a fiscal framework that fosters research geared toward commercial applications.

15. Plant Breeders' Rights Legislation

Whereas innovation in plant-breeding is vital to the continued profitability of wheat and barley production in Western Canada, and

Whereas it is necessary to encourage such innovation through a system of patent protection that provides returns to research and development and a framework for investment in value-addition, and

Whereas even under such a system, it is necessary to safeguard the right of farmers to reasonable use of new varieties,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby the federal government to revise our Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) legislation to conform with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Convention of 1991, and

Further be it resolved that such lobbying efforts also push for provisions in PBR that ensure farmers' right to save and condition seed and provide for full disclosure of any future liability with regard to fees, royalties or other cascading rights.

16. Grain Transportation

Whereas the Canadian Wheat Board recently shipped wheat from the port of Churchill and from the port terminal at Baie-Comeau to meet sales commitments at the Port of Vancouver, and

Whereas the cost of these shipments was borne entirely by prairie farmers, and

Whereas the cost of having the wrong grain in the wrong place is significant, and

Whereas Justice Estey recommended the CWB have no role in the handling and transportation of grain,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby to ensure the CWB's mandate is focussed on grain marketing and that it is removed from having any role in the grain handling and transportation sector.

17. Divestiture of Hopper Cars by the Federal Government

Whereas an efficient, well functioning rail system in western Canada is essential for access to world markets by farmers, and

Whereas to remain competitive, new and innovative ways of moving product into export markets are required, and

Whereas the government ownership of hopper cars has resulted in tariffs levied by the U.S.A. which deny western Canadian farmers access to that wheat market, and

Whereas the federal government has signalled its intent to divest ownership of the hopper cars,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA:

Lobby the federal government to ensure divestiture of the hopper cars is concluded only with initiatives which embody commercial principles of continuous improvement, mitigate increased costs to farmers and promote fleet renewal, and

Lobby the federal government to encourage innovation in transportation of agriculture production to occur by removing regulations and barriers which favour the status quo.

18. Education Taxes

Whereas the burden of education taxes falls disproportionately on farmers, and

Whereas the funding of education is a responsibility of all Canadians,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA lobby to remove farmland as a tax base for education funding.

19. Food Aid

Whereas members of the WCWGA support and appreciate the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in its efforts to relieve world hunger, and

Whereas current Canadian regulations now require that 90% of all government food aid funding must be used to source Canadian grain, and

Whereas this rule undermines the effectiveness of food aid programs and diminishes the value of donations to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the matching government contributions,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA support proposals to change Canada's food aid procurement rules, so that dollars and grain contributed by farmers to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank can be leveraged more effectively to relieve world hunger.

20. Courtesy Resolution

Whereas the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) and the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association (WCWGA) extend their sincere appreciation to those who contributed generously to our Joint Convention and Trade Fair; to our financial sponsors; to members of the media for their coverage of the Convention; to the Radisson Hotel for handling the arrangements; to the speakers who shared their knowledge and gave their time; to the Chairs and the emcees; to Don Savage for his auction expertise; to Dianne Savage, Priya Batchelor, Patty Martin, Sheila Leys, Joan Lasiuk and others for all their hard work and organization; and especially to the delegates who make this Convention a success,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) and the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association (WCWGA) hereby offers sincere thanks to all those involved for their assistance and support.