



Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association

2006 Resolutions

**March 15-17, 2006
Saskatoon, SK**

Procedures

The Resolutions Chair or the Chair of the Session will preside over the consideration of resolutions. The Chair will first read the prepared resolution, move it, and call for a seconder, who can then choose to speak to the resolution. The resolution will then be debated, with the seconder having final opportunity to speak to the resolution before the chair closes debate. Voting on resolutions will be conducted by a show of hands among members and votes will be counted by the Chair.

Resolutions not contained herein are accepted from the floor. When submitting resolutions from the floor, the mover must supply the Resolution Chair with a clearly written or typed copy of the motion before presenting it to the Convention. Only active members may move, second or vote on resolutions.

While all persons will be allowed reasonable time to speak to the motions, the Chair will have the right to limit debate.

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1. Bilateral trade deals

Whereas U.S. farmers and grain companies are gaining preferential market access to several countries through the negotiation of bilateral trade agreements,

And whereas the latest agreement negotiated between the U.S. and Colombia will result in the removal of tariffs on several U.S. grain exports to Colombia, whereas tariffs on Canadian grain exports to Colombia (currently 15% on wheat, barley and pulse crops) remain in place,

Therefore be it resolved that Canada move quickly to negotiate bilateral trade deals so that Canadian farmers and exporters are not at a competitive disadvantage to farmers and exporters in competing nations.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Hubert Esquirol

CARRIED, March 15, 2006

2. Canada's position on state-trading enterprises

Whereas the monopoly position of the CWB is a irritant to our trading partners and many domestic producers,

And whereas the use of the CWB monopoly as a bargaining chip in WTO negotiations could bring significant gains to Canadian farmers in the form of increased market access and reductions in trade-distorting domestic support,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association lobby the ministers of agriculture and international trade to instruct Canada's WTO negotiating team to place the monopoly position of the Canadian Wheat Board up for negotiation.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Dean Klippenstine

CARRIED, March 15, 2006

3. Free trade in agricultural chemical products

Whereas the Own Use Import (OUI) provision of the PMRA has allowed farmers to reduce input costs and improve profitability,

And whereas competition would be further enhanced by allowing distributors and retailers to import pesticide products,

And whereas the Wheat Growers respect intellectual property protection as a means to promote research and development,

Therefore be it resolved that any farmer or business be permitted to import agricultural chemical products that are chemically equivalent to products registered for use in Canada,

And be it further resolved that the intellectual property protection available to product manufacturers under Canada's patent laws, also applies to the use or sale of imported chemical products.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel

Motion by Curtis Simms to handle this as two separate resolutions.

Seconded by Hubert Esquirol

CARRIED

Motion by Hubert Esquirol to TABLE both parts of this resolution.

CARRIED, March 15, 2006

4. CAIS

Whereas the elimination or restructuring of the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program would negate three years of farmer efforts to learn this program and establish reference margins,

And whereas CAIS does not address the impact on Canadian farm prices resulting from the production and trade distorting policies in other countries,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association support the continued use of the CAIS program, providing the program is changed to:

- (i) address trade injury resulting from foreign subsidies and policies,
- (ii) make the program more "bankable," by removing uncertainty as to the level and timing of income support,
- (iii) simplify the administration.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Curtis Hiebert

DEFEATED, March 15, 2006

5. Education Tax

Whereas the burden of education taxes falls disproportionately on farmers,

And whereas there is no economic justification for property taxes to be used as a basis for funding education,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association lobby to remove property as a tax base for education funding in all provinces.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel

CARRIED, March 16, 2006

6. Disposition of the federal government hopper cars

Whereas an efficient, well-functioning rail system is vital to ensuring Canadian farmers have cost-effective access to domestic and world markets,

And whereas in 2005, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport recommended that the federal hopper cars be disposed of under a Request for Proposal (RFP) process that is open and transparent and available to all interested parties,

And whereas that recommendation has not yet been acted upon,

And whereas Justice Estey, in his comprehensive 1998 review of the grain handling and transportation system, suggested the cars be sold at fair market value through an open auction process,

And whereas the railways have level of service obligations under the Canada Transportation Act, including an obligation to furnish shippers with railcars,

Therefore be it resolved that the Canadian government initiate a Request for Proposal process regarding the disposition of the federal hopper cars, so that all interested parties have an opportunity to put forward proposals that would lead to an efficient, cost-effective, commercially-oriented rail transportation system,

And be it further resolved that the Wheat Growers recommend the federal hopper cars be sold in lots at fair market value to any buyer or buyers, providing the railway level of service obligations under the Canada Transportation Act are strengthened.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Kurt Freitag

CARRIED, March 16, 2006

7. Kernel Visual Distinguishability

Whereas the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association has long held that the KVD is a significant barrier to the development of varieties of all classes of wheat grown in Western Canada,

And whereas the Prairie Recommending Committee for Wheat, Rye, and Triticale (PRCWRT) recently resolved to eliminate KVD as a factor in registering varieties of Hard Red Winter Wheat,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association support efforts to eliminate the KVD requirement for the registration of Hard Red Winter Wheat as a precursor to a system of variety registration that eliminates the KVD requirement entirely,

And be it further resolved that the WCWGA work with stakeholders in the wheat industry to promote a voluntary declaration system to replace the current KVD system.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Con Johnson

CARRIED, March 16, 2006

8. Falling Number Grading

Whereas falling number is an internationally recognized standard in determining wheat quality,

And whereas growers are not paid on the basis of falling number in Western Canada, often receiving less than fair value for milling quality grain,

Therefore be it resolved that the Wheat Growers continue to work with wheat industry groups, including the Canadian Wheat Board, to implement falling number grading.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Bill Rusk

CARRIED, March 17, 2006

9. Canadian Grain Commission bonding

Whereas farmers have suffered significant financial losses as a result of the failure of both bonded and unbonded companies,

And whereas the Wheat Growers believe that farmers should have an opportunity to determine the level of payment security that best suits their risk management needs,

And whereas a mandatory bonding system would reduce competition among grain buyers,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA seek changes to the Canada Grain Act that would allow grain buyers to offer payment security to farmers on a voluntary basis, either through the Canadian Grain Commission bond or some other form of security,

And be it further resolved that any farmer who obtains payment security under a CGC bond has full payment protection.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Tom Jackson

CARRIED, March 17, 2006

10. Incentives for research and development

Whereas there has been a notable lack of private sector investment into research and development in wheat,

And whereas public sector investment has also been in decline, leading farmers to increasingly bear the cost of research and development through the Western Grains Research Foundation,

And whereas the sustained viability and competitiveness of the Canadian wheat industry depends on research and innovation in both the public and private sectors,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association lobby for a renewed government commitment to research and development in plant research,

And be it further resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association explore the suitability of alternative means of generating better returns to research and development in plant research, such as the introduction of an end-point royalty system.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Curtis Hiebert

CARRIED, March 17, 2006

11. Support for biotechnology in wheat

Whereas transgenic crops have provided considerable benefit to growers of crops such as canola, corn, and soybeans,

And whereas to remain competitive, Canadian agriculture must be a world leader in embracing new technology to reduce pesticide applications or to develop products with new output traits,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association support continuing research into the benefits of transgenic technologies in wheat and work with stakeholders in the wheat supply chain to deliver those benefits to customers, industry, and most importantly, farmers.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Robert Wyman

CARRIED, March 16, 2006

12. Expansion of the mandate of the Canadian Wheat Board

Whereas some farmers would like the mandate of the Canadian Wheat Board to be expanded to include the marketing of crops other than wheat and barley,

And whereas the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association supports increased competition and the availability of a wide range of risk management and marketing tools,

Whereas the addition of crops to the mandate of the CWB under the current legislative environment would only serve to invite trade action,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA supports the marketing of additional crops by the CWB, providing all of the following conditions are met:

- (i) farmer deliveries of any and all grain to the CWB are on a completely voluntary basis;
- (ii) all government ties to the CWB are extinguished; and
- (iii) the CWB is truly a farmer-owned and controlled company.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Geoff Hewson

DEFEATED, March 16, 2006

13. Restructuring of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB)

Whereas the Wheat Growers wish to see the CWB remain as an effective marketing tool,

Whereas Canada has already pledged to give up the government guarantee of CWB initial payments and borrowings under WTO negotiations,

Whereas the CWB will consequently require a capital base to sustain its operations,

Whereas the provision of any public contribution to the CWB would subject Canada to trade action, and would give it an unfair advantage relative to privately funded companies,

Therefore be it resolved that any capital accumulation by the CWB be funded privately and on a completely voluntary basis,

And be it further resolved that the CWB not be permitted to invest in handling or processing facilities until such time as marketing choice is provided and all ties to government are extinguished.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Con Johnson

CARRIED, March 16, 2006

14. Marketing Choice

Whereas the current federal government committed to implementing marketing choice for Western Canadian farmers in their federal election platform and,

And whereas current market conditions have again illustrated the need for marketing choice to afford farmers the kind of delivery options, contracting alternatives, and niche market opportunities for wheat and barley that are present in the case of other crops and,

And whereas the CWB monopoly does not allow farmers to manage their pricing, storage and cashflow needs in a manner that is best suited to each individual farm operation,

And whereas the costs of the current regulatory regime, outweigh any real or imagined benefits, and has contributed to a decline in seeded wheat acreage of more than 25% in western Canada over the past twenty years,

And whereas farmers elsewhere in Canada are free to market their wheat and barley to whomever they please,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association seeks to ensure the Canadian government honors its campaign commitment to implement marketing choice for wheat and barley as soon as reasonably possible, and no later than August 1, 2006.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Geoff Hewson

CARRIED, March 16, 2006

15. CWB director elections

Whereas the CWB election review panel report made a number of recommendations to improve the CWB director election process,

And whereas the panel report called for voter eligibility to be restricted to those who deliver a minimum of 40 tonnes of grain to the CWB,

And whereas this recommendations does not take into account those who deliver their grain outside of the CWB, nor does it take into account those farmers who have shifted away from wheat and barley production because of the CWB monopoly,

And whereas this recommendation does not adequately reflect each farmer's stake in the marketing system,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA seek to ensure that voting for CWB directors is weighted such that each farmer is entitled to one vote for every 500 tonnes (or portion thereof) of grain production, subject to a minimum threshold of 100 tonnes, based on the farmer's average grain production over the previous three years.

(Eg. For example, a farmer would get 1 vote if his average production was 200 tonnes of grain, 2 votes for 600 tonnes, 3 votes for 1100 tonnes, etc.)

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Curtis Hiebert

CARRIED, March 16, 2006

16. Alternative Fuels

Whereas the current period of elevated energy prices has created new opportunities for alternative energy production worldwide,

And whereas Canada has lagged behind our competitors in the adoption of agricultural energy production, such as that from ethanol or biodiesel,

And whereas ethanol production from wheat has the potential to increase market opportunities for farmers and expand the rural economy,

Therefore be it resolved that the WCWGA actively support a regulatory regime, including crop variety development, which expands ethanol production in Canada.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Bill Rusk

CARRIED, March 17, 2006

17. Environmental Goods and Services

Whereas farmers make significant contributions toward the stewardship of public resources such as water and wildlife that exist in and around their property,

And whereas the benefits of conservation efforts by farmers are shared by all Canadians And whereas any environmental regulation of agricultural practices should respect the property rights of farmers and recognize that agriculture is only one of many groups that influence environmental quality,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association support programs that remunerate growers for their conservation efforts on a voluntary basis.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Tom Jackson

CARRIED, March 17, 2006

18. Inland Terminal Support for the CWB Single Desk Marketing System

Whereas the February 17, 2006 Inland Terminal Association of Canada (ITAC) letter the Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl stressed their support for the continuation of the CWB single desk marketing system,

And whereas the support for the inland terminal concept was initiated by the Palliser Wheat Growers Association and resulted in the building of the Weyburn Inland Terminal,

And whereas this major policy decision by ITAC was taken without consultation with shareholders and without consideration of potential negative impacts on deliveries to ITAC member companies and on the direction of grain marketing policy in Western Canada,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association ask individual member companies of ITAC to clarify this policy initiative while stressing the past support of the Wheat Growers for the market competitiveness achieved by inland terminals.

Moved by: Joe Janzen

Seconded by: Bill Cooper

CARRIED, March 17, 2006