

MEDIA RELEASE

**Wheat Growers Urge All Farmers to Vote**

**September 5, 2002:** “Get a permit book and vote!” urged Art Enns, President of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, when the election period for Canadian Wheat Board directors was declared open today.

Enns believes the biggest challenge in bringing about change to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is voter apathy. “Farmers fear that their vote won’t count, but it’s not true,” he said. “In the last election, challengers to the sitting directors missed winning in some cases by only a handful of votes.”

Enns cited the changes that are proposed for the Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board as proof that farmers can be heard and can effect change.

“The Ontario Board has introduced real marketing choices for farmers,” he said. “They are proposing to end the Ontario Board’s monopoly in 2003. Marketing policies should be the same across Canada and we have the opportunity to make it so.”

Wheat Grower Vice President Bernie Sambrook pointed out the high calibre of candidates running on a platform of change to the CWB’s marketing mandate. “We have a real opportunity to elect highly qualified candidates who will bring accountability to the CWB and who are prepared to enact the kind of changes that farmers want and need,” said Sambrook.

The Wheat Growers are urging all farmers to get a CWB permit book, make sure they understand how to vote with the preferential ballot system, and find out what the candidates stand for.

“If you don’t have a CWB permit book, you can also sign a Statutory Declaration and get a ballot,” Sambrook pointed out.

“We can make a difference,” said Enns. “This is the opportunity that the federal government gave us to influence marketing policy and we must take it.”

- 30 -

For more information contact:  
Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, 306-586-5866