

MEDIA RELEASE

**Wheat Growers Urge Settlement of West Coast Grain Lockout**

**September 6, 2002:** The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is urging a quick settlement to the west coast labour dispute that is disrupting grain shipments. The British Columbia Terminal Elevator Operators Association (BCTEOA) has locked out the Grain Workers Union (GWU) over unsettled contract issues, effectively stopping grain shipments from the Port of Vancouver.

“Another labour dispute at the west coast is the last thing farmers need right now,” said Wheat Grower President Art Enns. “We have lost count of the number of times grain movement has been disrupted in recent memory, and our reputation as a reliable supplier of grain suffers every time.”

Enns added that farmers are facing a tough year as a result of the drought and need to be able to market whatever they have without delay in order to make ends meet. The Wheat Growers issued the attached open letter to Minister Vanclief asking that he encourage the parties involved in the dispute to settle their differences and allow grain to start moving again.

“We are asking Minister Vanclief to take action to help settle the dispute because work stoppages affect the viability of the whole grain industry,” said Enns. “Farmers also urge the BCTEOA and the GWU to settle this dispute quickly so everyone can get back to business.”

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is a not-for-profit, voluntary farm organization that represents the interests of its members to government and other sectors of agriculture. Its mandate is to advance the development of a profitable and sustainable agriculture industry.

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