



NEWS RELEASE

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WHEAT GROWERS CONGRATULATE HON REG ALCOCK AND WELCOME REVIEW OF CWB

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association (WCWGA) has written to the Hon. Reg Alcock, congratulating him on his appointment as President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). The Association welcomed the chance to work with the new Minister on a variety of issues facing its farmer members, and offered their full support to the new Minister in his new portfolio. In its letter to the Minister, the Association welcomed the announcement by the new Minister that a review will be conducted into the deficit in the CWB's wheat pool account, and the circumstances surrounding it. "It is unfortunate," said interim Wheat Grower Chair, Paul Orsak, "that Mr. Alcock is facing this kind of difficult issue so early in his mandate. However, he brings a wealth of experience in public administration and management, and we are hopeful that his review will be thorough and effective."

The Wheat Grower letter pointed out that the western grain industry is facing some unique challenges. "Trade tensions with the United States, tariffs on wheat exports, subsidization levels in the U.S. and European Union, unresolved transportation problems, currency fluctuations, biotechnology, and risk management are all issues that are raising challenges which require attention," said Orsak, "and all have ramifications for the policy and practices of wheat marketing in Western Canada."

Clayton Kotylak, a committee member from Saskatchewan, said "the Wheat Growers are looking forward to a productive dialogue with the Minister on the issues that face western agriculture in general and the grain industry particularly, and we have invited Mr. Alcock to contact us on both the matter of the CWB review, and on other challenges and problems the industry faces."

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The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is a voluntary farm organization representing the interests of commercial farmers.