

MEDIA RELEASE

**Wheat Growers Announce New Governance Structure**

**March 24, 2003:** The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association announced a plan to restructure the organization's governance at its annual meeting held at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel in Calgary, March 19 - 21.

Farmers are busier than ever managing their businesses, with less time for volunteer work. In the past, Wheat Grower directors have been expected to provide input into all the association's issues, with the President acting as chief spokesperson. The increasingly complex world of agricultural policy has made the task an onerous one, and it has become challenging to attract busy and knowledgeable farmers to serve on the Board. With this in mind, the Board of Directors proposed a new governance structure at the annual general meeting and delegates voted overwhelmingly in support of the change.

The new structure consists of an Executive Committee, headed by a Chairman, to manage strategic planning, finances, membership, communications and governance. The Executive Committee will include Wheat Grower Directors Tim Harvie (Chairman), Art Enns, Ted Menzies and Lee Erickson along with Senior Advisor Charlie Mayer and Operations Manager Mark Allan.

Delegates also voted in support of a policy program that replaced the resolution process at the convention. Committees focusing on the six major policy areas identified by the Association including Marketing and Transportation Reform, Trade, Biotechnology, Regulatory, Environment and Farm Income will manage policy issues. Supported by the Executive Committee, these committees will draw on expertise from beyond the Board of Directors including advisors, farmer members, industry and government.

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is a progressive, responsible organization dedicated to a self-reliant and profitable agriculture industry.

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