



For Immediate Release

August 4, 2004

Wheat Growers Applaud WTO Outcome

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association (WCWGA) is encouraged by a new framework agreement reached in Geneva on the weekend. It paves the way for further WTO trade negotiation in the near future.

“Canadian farmers stand to gain considerably if the end results reflect this new framework agreement,” said WCWGA President Cherilyn Jolly of Mossbank, Saskatchewan.

The association congratulates International Trade Minister Peterson and Agriculture Minister Mitchell on their leadership during these tough negotiations, and salutes the entire negotiating team, especially Canada’s chief Agriculture Negotiator, Mr. Steve Verheul. The WCWGA membership applauds the decision to support the framework and will be closely following the results. A letter of appreciation for their recent success will be sent on behalf of WCWGA.

“It’s not perfect.” says Jolly, “However, it’s a start to giving Canadian farmers a level playing field on which to compete. Negotiating the specifics that will fulfill the mandate will not be an easy task, but the elimination of export subsidies and substantial increases in market access for grains and oilseeds are victories worth celebrating!”

“It is worth noting,” added WCWGA Manitoba Vice-President Curtis Hiebert from Sperling, MB, “that our negotiators recognized the hurt caused by exorbitant subsidies used by our major export competitors, weighed domestic factors against this, and made the proper judgment. Their decision to sign the agreement was correct, was courageous, and will bring a positive net benefit to Canadian farmers.”

The Wheat Growers encourage Canada’s officials to keep the momentum going and aggressively take the next steps towards a successful completion of the Doha WTO deal.

The WCWGA, an independent producer organization, have spent 34 years bringing forth innovative farmer-driven solutions and will continue to lobby on behalf of forward thinking, progressive producers in an effort to make farming sustainable and profitable.

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Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.