



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association Questions Recent Canadian Wheat Board Decision to Hire Gray**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association (WCWGA) is questioning the recent decision of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) to hire former Manitoba MLA and long-time Liberal Avis Gray as a full-time government relations lobbyist for the Board.

Most recently, Ms. Gray served as campaign co-chair for the Hon. Reg Alcock who is the Minister responsible for the CWB. She is expected to earn between \$100,000 to \$200,000 in her new position as CWB lobbyist.

“Why does the Canadian Wheat Board, a government-legislated monopoly – controlled by the government and responsible to the government – need a lobbyist?” asks Cherilyn Jolly, President of the WCWGA. “And, if hiring Ms. Gray is indeed essential, what is the Board saying about the Minister answerable for the CWB portfolio?” she continues.

The WCWGA also says the whole affair hints at Liberal patronage, something CWB Directors have been criticized for in the past. “This goes beyond the simple questions of whether the job was posted, if proper hiring rules were followed, and if other candidates were considered for this job,” says Randy Hoback, Chair of the WCWGA. “It makes us wonder who’s really in charge.”

The WCWGA notes the CWB’s uncomfortable announcement comes at a time when farmers are preoccupied with harvest.

“The WCWGA will be addressing our concerns in a letter to Minister Alcock,” says Jolly. “We encourage farmers to hold the Board accountable during CWB elections this fall,” she urges.

The WCWGA, an independent producer organization, has 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.***