



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Prairie Farmers Bear Brunt of CWB's Costly Shipping Errors**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers has learned the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) has been caught with grain in the wrong export position and is now moving grain backward from port terminals to meet sales.

According to industry sources, the CWB has railed #1 high protein wheat from the port of Churchill to Vancouver to meet sales contracts to Japan. The CWB has also moved wheat by vessel from a terminal at Baie-Comeau (a port near the mouth of the St. Lawrence) back upstream to Montreal.

The full cost of reloading, shipping, and unloading of these shipments will be borne entirely by prairie farmers through the CWB pool accounts.

"This illustrates why the CWB should have no role in grain transportation," says Cherilyn Jolly, President of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers. "Justice Estey made that recommendation in 1998, and yet his advice was ignored. Prairie farmers now suffer the consequences."

The Wheat Growers note that if the advice of Justice Estey had been followed, the CWB would simply tender for grain to meet sales as required. It would be the responsibility of the grain companies and the railways to make sure the right grain gets to port on time, and farmers would avoid these unnecessary costs. The CWB would in fact collect non-performance penalties if other parties failed to meet their contractual obligations.

Jolly adds that this episode further illustrates why western farmers need the same marketing choices that are offered to Ontario and Quebec farmers. "We need marketing freedom in western Canada," says Jolly, "so prairie farmers aren't continually forced to pay for the costly mistakes of others."

The Association is writing the CWB to ask for a full explanation and for an accounting of the costs. The Wheat Growers will also be calling on the Hon. Reg Alcock, Minister responsible for the CWB, to investigate this affair and to undertake a full review of the monopoly and regulatory powers the federal government currently bestows upon the CWB.

The WCWGA, an independent producer organization, has spent 35 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.***