



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers call for Mediation and End to Vancouver Port Work Stoppage**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is calling on the Vancouver Container Truckers Association (VCTA), relevant trucking companies and truck brokers, container operators, and the Vancouver Port Authority to agree to mediation respecting the current work stoppage initiated by the VCTA.

Since Saturday, a work stoppage by the truckers of containers has paralysed container shipments from the Port, including shipments of containerized grain. The Wheat Growers fear that sales might be lost and that the increased congestion at the Port could soon affect shipments of bulk grain.

“Western Canadian farmers depend on the Vancouver port to move over 50% of our containerized and bulk grain shipments,” says Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “This disruption is resulting in delayed shipments of grain, possible loss of sales, demurrage charges and other storage and carrying costs. These costs, borne by shippers, are ultimately passed on to prairie farmers.”

“The Wheat Growers are looking for the parties involved, or if necessary governments, to mediate the dispute; we urge all parties to reach an agreement that would allow containerized grain shipments to resume as quickly as possible,” says Jolly-Nagel.

Yesterday, the Wheat Growers sent letters to the Hon. Jean-C. Lapierre, federal Minister of Transport and the Hon. Kevin Falcon, B.C. Minister of Transportation urging their governments to take measures to get parties talking and end the work stoppage.

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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For more information, please contact:

Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President, WCWGA  
(306) 354-2517

Douglas Campbell, Alberta Vice President and Chair, WCWGA Transport Committee  
(403) 932-6866

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***Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.***