



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers Welcome Federal Support**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association welcomes the announcement by the federal government to provide \$755 million in support to farmers in the grains sector.

“This funding partly covers the hurt that grain farmers are incurring as a result of trade barriers and trade actions of other countries,” says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. She noted that grain farmers are facing record high input costs at a time when Canadian grain prices are being depressed by excessive EU and US subsidies.

While welcoming the announcement, the Wheat Growers are concerned about the degree to which the funding will simply replace funds that would otherwise be provided to farmers under the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program. According to one federal estimate, the funding is projected to reduce CAIS payments to grain farmers by approximately \$150 million, meaning the amount of “new” money is closer to \$600 million. The Wheat Growers will be working to ensure funding under this announcement does not simply replace support that might otherwise be available to farmers.

The Wheat Growers also see the need for federal policy changes to address the underlying causes of the farm income problem and the financial hardship facing Canadian grain farmers.

“We see this announcement as part of a necessary transition payment to help grain farmers until long overdue policy changes are implemented,” says Randy Hoback, Chair of the Wheat Growers. “We need to see greater investment in agricultural research and a policy environment that encourages more value-added on the prairies, including ethanol and biodiesel plants, flour mills and other grain processing facilities.”

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.***