



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Supportive of Agriculture Committee's Canadian Grain Commission Recommendations

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association supports many of the recommendations made by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food in its report on the Canadian Grain Commission.

"The Committee has made several thoughtful and measured recommendations," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. "Adopting these recommendations will create more opportunities for prairie farmers and improve the competitiveness of our industry."

The Wheat Growers are pleased to see many of our positions and recommendations reflected in the Committee's report. A key recommendation of the Standing Committee is to abandon the kernel visual distinguishability (KVD) requirement that has acted as an impediment to the development of new wheat varieties for prairie farmers. The Wheat Growers agree that an affidavit system is a much more effective way of segregating wheat varieties throughout the Canadian grain handling system.

The Committee also made several other positive recommendations, including:

- Modernizing the CGC governance structure including the appointment of a CEO.
- Maintaining the protection of producer interests as the main purpose of the *Canada Grain Act*.
- The creation of a farmer advocacy office to defend the interests of farmers.
- Making inward inspection of grain deliveries at terminal elevators optional, while ensuring the service is maintained for those who may require it. The Wheat Growers believe this will reduce costs and yet ensure competition is preserved.
- The contracting out of CGC services when it makes good business sense.
- The appointment of an independent arbitrator to consider the liability to be placed on the Canadian Grain Commission under its Certificate Final, or other grading disputes.

Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.

- Increased funding for grain research. While the Commission’s Grain Research Laboratory is one area where increased funding may be necessary, the Wheat Growers want to ensure public research dollars are spent in areas that provide the greatest benefit to farmers, without duplicating or displacing private sector investment.
- Retention of the farmer’s right to access producer cars, a long-held Wheat Grower position.
- Support for the clearinghouse concept to secure payment for producers. The Wheat Growers support the clearinghouse model as a lower-cost way to secure producer payments, on a transaction-by-transaction basis.

The Wheat Growers are encouraging the federal government to adopt the report and introduce legislation to amend the Canada Grain Act early in the New Year.

“Overall, we’re quite pleased with the report,” says Jolly-Nagel. “We hope to see these recommendations acted upon as quickly as possible so that the changes are in place for the start of the new crop year.”

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For further comment, please contact:

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