



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers support Education Tax Reform on Saskatchewan Farmland

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association supports the proposal of the Tax Action Group to address the inequitable taxation of farmland in Saskatchewan.

The Group's proposal calls for a freeze on the Education Tax mill rate at the 2005 levels on farmland, a twenty-five percent reduction of education tax on farmland by March 2006, and further ten percent reductions in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Such reductions would bring education tax levies on farmland more in line with those in Manitoba and Alberta.

"Farmers are willing to contribute their fair share to education," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers, "but in Saskatchewan we continue to shoulder a disproportionate burden."

The Wheat Growers view the Tax Action Group proposal as an interim measure to immediately address the inequities between urban and rural landowners. Eventually, the Wheat Growers want to see property removed as a basis for funding education, and instead be supported through general revenues.

"We don't see the rationale for a link between property ownership and education funding," says Jolly-Nagel. "Using property as a basis for education funding may have been rough justice 50 years ago, but that model no longer makes any sense given the population shifts over time."

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.