



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Look Forward to Improvements in Farm Policy

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association congratulates the Conservative Party on forming a minority federal government and looks forward to working with all parties in developing policies to improve farm incomes and prosperity on the prairies.

“A change in government always presents an opportunity to try fresh approaches to old problems,” says Cheryllyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “The Wheat Growers are optimistic that changes in federal agricultural and fiscal policy that help unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of prairie farmers will go some distance to restoring our profitability.”

Among the key policy areas the Wheat Growers will be seeking action are:

- Implementation of marketing choice for wheat and barley grown by western Canadian farmers (please refer to concurrent press release for further comment on marketing choice and other CWB reforms).
- A trade policy that better serves the interests of those farmers who rely on export markets, and encourages free trade in both farm inputs and outputs.
- Greater harmonization of pesticide regulations with the U.S. and other markets.
- Policies to promote the development of the bio-fuel industry, and other value-added processing.
- Improvements to safety net programs, including compensation for trade injury.
- Increased public funding of plant and food research.
- Ensuring food safety and environmental programs that are intended to serve the public interest are funded by the public purse.
- An increase in the interest-free portion of cash advances.
- Measures to provide relief from taxes on farm inputs including fuel, fertilizer and chemicals.

“With low commodity prices and high input costs, the Wheat Growers believe implementation of new policies in these and other areas are needed to improve farm margins,” says Jolly-Nagel. “While we recognize it’s important to get policies right, we will be looking for the federal government to act quickly so we can begin to address the farm income problem.”

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.