



For Immediate Release

May 3, 2006

Wheat Growers Welcome Support for Farmers in Federal Budget

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association welcomes the announcement of an additional \$1 billion in federal farm income support in yesterday's budget. Along with the funding, the federal government announced plans to replace CAIS with a more effective farm income stabilization and disaster relief program.

"We certainly look forward to a farm support program that better meets the needs of grain and oilseed producers," says Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. "The current CAIS program fails to take into account the price-depressing impact of foreign subsidies and trade barriers."

While the Wheat Growers welcome the short-term relief, the Association notes that restoring long-term profitability to the prairie farming sector will require action by the federal government on a number of policy fronts, including:

- i) the implementation of marketing choice for wheat and barley;
- ii) a national biofuels strategy;
- iii) measures to improve railway service levels and accountability;
- iv) relief from taxes on food production, including taxes on fuels and other farm inputs;
- v) creation of a regulatory environment, including changes to the Canada Grain Act, that promotes innovation and the competitiveness of our sector; and
- vi) securing a WTO agreement that reduces trade distortions and improves market opportunities for western farmers

"Western farmers want to earn a greater share of their income from the marketplace," says Jolly-Nagel. "The federal government needs to move forward on these policy areas, so each of us has the opportunity to decide for ourselves how best to improve the profitability on our farms."

The WCWGA, an independent producer organization, has spent 36 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.

- 30 -

For further comment, please contact:

Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President, WCWGA
Home: (306) 354-2517; Cell: (306) 354-7368

Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.