



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Pleased with Movement Forward on Marketing Choice

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased with the federal government's announcement of a task force to address the technical and transitional issues relating to the implementation of marketing choice for western Canadian wheat and barley farmers.

"This is an important step in ensuring the transition to marketing choice goes smoothly," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. "Working these technical issues out in advance will help farmers, the trade and the Canadian Wheat Board prepare for the new operating environment."

The Wheat Growers are also pleased with the diversity and breadth of experience among task force members.

"These individuals bring a lot of expertise to the table," says Jolly-Nagel. "I'm sure they'll leave no stone unturned when it comes to addressing all the implementation issues."

The Wheat Growers are particularly pleased with the inclusion of Mike Bast, the current Chair of the Wheat Growers as a member of the Task Force. For biographical information on Mike, please go to: www.wheatgrowers.ca/contact.htm.

The Wheat Growers also urge the CWB to nominate a senior representative to the Task Force. The Wheat Growers maintain that it would be irresponsible for the CWB not to participate, given that it has a duty to serve the interests of all farmers, not just those who oppose marketing freedom.

"It's important for the CWB to participate to ensure all its operating concerns are addressed," says Jolly-Nagel. "This will enable the Board to become a good marketing tool for farmers in a market choice environment."

The Wheat Growers are counting on the Task Force to complete its work by the end of October, so the government can act on its recommendations and implement the transition measures as quickly as possible.

"We'll have to see what the recommendations of the Task Force are," says Jolly-Nagel, "however we hope they can propose an aggressive timetable, so farmers can start capitalizing on the new profit opportunities that marketing choice will create."

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.

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