



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Disagree in Principle with Decision to Hold Wheat Vote

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is disappointed with yesterday's announcement by the federal government that it intends to hold a plebiscite among farmers on how wheat is marketed in Western Canada.

"On principle, the Wheat Growers cannot accept that decisions over the sale of private property in Canada should be subjected to a vote," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. "If you accept the argument that how I market my grain should be decided by the wishes of the majority, then what you are saying is that individual farmers should not enjoy the same property rights and all other economic freedoms that other Canadians take for granted,"

The Wheat Growers believe individual farmers should be free to sell their grain on their own or in co-operation with others.

"We fully respect the wishes of those farmers who want to market their grain through the Canadian Wheat Board. No one is trying to take that away," says Jolly-Nagel "We are simply seeking the right for individual farmers to make the business decision that are right for their farm.

The Wheat Growers are seeking harmonization of federal grain marketing regulations across Canada. Farmers in Western Canada should not be denied the same freedoms enjoyed by other Canadian farmers. In our view federal Canadian laws should not discriminate against farmers on the basis of where they live.

Despite this position, the Wheat Growers will encourage farmers to participate in the plebiscite. However, when a plebiscite is held the vote should be weighted to reflect each farmer's economic stake.

"We need to ensure the results of the vote are not skewed by hobby farmers," says Jolly-Nagel. "Only those who are active farmers and who have a reasonable economic stake in grain production should be allowed to vote."

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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Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.