



For Immediate Release

October 17, 2007

Wheat Growers Encouraged by Throne Speech

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased to see the federal government signal in yesterday's Throne Speech that it will make marketing choice into law either through legislation or regulation.

"It's good to see the federal government is now taking concrete action to honour its pledge to give prairie farmers the right to sell our own grain," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers.

The Wheat Growers had written to the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister on October 1 asking the government to announce that it would introduce legislation this fall to provide for participation in the CWB to be voluntary for both wheat and barley. The Wheat Growers had further asked that such legislation be subject to a confidence motion.

"We look forward to implementation of marketing choice for both wheat and barley whether that's through legislation or regulation," says Mike Bast, Chair of the Wheat Growers. "We want legislation passed because that makes the change more permanent, but if regulation will get the job done faster, that's important too, because many farmers want the ability to take advantage of the current strong prices in world grain markets."

The Wheat Growers are also encouraged by the federal government's commitment to biofuels and its plans to remove barriers that inhibit free trade within Canada, however we are disappointed the government appears to have abandoned efforts to obtain greater trade liberalization on the world stage. The throne speech indicated the federal government would defend supply management but gave no indication that it would advance the interests of the 90% of Canadian farmers whose income depends on access to export markets.

"The government needs to take a more broad-minded approach and demonstrate a willingness to promote the trade interests of those of us who depend on world markets," says Jolly-Nagel.

- 30 -

For further comment, please contact:

Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel
President
Home: (306) 354-2517
Cell: (306) 354-2599

Mike Bast
Chair
(204) 256-6187

Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.