



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers Applaud Move to Remove KVD Restraint**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased to see the federal government has taken a major step toward improving the competitiveness of prairie wheat farmers by removing kernel visual distinguishability (KVD) as a registration criterion for new wheat varieties in Western Canada.

“KVD has been a major constraint in the development of profitable new wheat varieties for prairie farmers,” says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “This policy change opens the door for greater investment in research that will give us varieties with higher yields and improved traits.”

In the past six years, not a single new hard red winter wheat variety has been registered for use in western Canada, often because potential new lines failed to meet the restrictive KVD constraint.

The KVD-based grading system has also proven to be ineffective as a means of segregating wheat in the western Canadian grain handling and marketing system. In the past, unregistered indistinguishable varieties have caused shipments of wheat to downgrade, causing significant losses to grain companies. Several companies successfully introduced declaration systems to handle the problem.

“A declaration system proved to be a good way to deal with the shortcomings of KVD,” says Rolf Penner, a Wheat Grower director and feedgrain buyer. “Declarations or other quality control methods will provide grain buyers with a better way to get the specs they’re looking for.”

The Wheat Growers applaud the federal government for removing KVD in western Canada, as is now the case for all classes of wheat in Ontario. The Wheat Growers note that wheat is the only crop on the prairies where, until now, such a restrictive regime remained. For all other crops, effective segregation systems are in place to handle indistinguishable varieties that are destined for different markets.

“We’re looking forward to seeing more varieties that meet the diverse needs of farmers and end-use customers,” says Jolly-Nagel. “This change will pave the way for the development of more varieties specifically geared for livestock, ethanol or milling markets, including varieties with improved health benefits.”

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