



*For Immediate Release*

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## **CWB Survey Confirms Widespread Support for Marketing Freedom**

The latest survey released by the Canadian Wheat Board shows that support for marketing choice continues to grow on the prairies, says the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

“This survey re-confirms that most farmers want the right to sell their own grain,” says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “It also confirms that most farmers believe they’d get better returns if they were rid of the CWB single desk on barley.”

According to the survey, when asked which of three marketing options they prefer, only 42% of producers support the CWB monopoly on wheat. A total of 57% want either marketing choice or a complete open market. On barley, the support for marketing freedom is even higher. Only 27% support the CWB’s monopoly compared to 67% who want choice or a complete open market. This is even greater than the Government of Canada barley plebiscite last year that showed 62% were in favour of ending the CWB monopoly.

The results also showed that 59% of permit book holders agreed that “Getting rid of the single desk for barley will result in better returns for barley producers.” It appears that the same question was not asked on wheat.

The Wheat Growers note the CWB survey is not a representative sample of farmers as it only includes those who deal with the CWB. It excludes many farmers, especially those in Alberta, who do not have permit books because they have switched away from growing wheat and barley or have found better market opportunities in feed or ethanol markets.

“We’re convinced a representative survey of all producers would show even greater support for marketing freedom,” says Jolly-Nagel.

The Wheat Growers call on Parliamentarians to respect the views of western farmers and give them the same marketing freedom that all other barley producers in Canada now enjoy by fast-tracking Bill C-46 through Parliament. Bill C-46 would provide marketing freedom to prairie barley producers.

“We’re hoping to convince all Parliamentarians that it would be supremely unjust to continue a federal law that discriminates against western farmers when farmers outside the prairie region are free to sell their grain to a buyer of their choice” says Jolly-Nagel.

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