



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers Salute Aussies**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association congratulates the Australian government on ending Australia's wheat export monopoly. The Australian Wheat Board (AWB Ltd.) loses its monopoly on July 1, meaning that all Australian farmers and companies will now be free to sell and export wheat from that country.

With the policy change, Canada becomes the only democracy in the world that jails farmers for selling their own wheat and barley.

"As we celebrate Canada Day tomorrow, many western Canadian farmers will pause and raise a glass to the Australian farmer, who will now enjoy the marketing freedom that we can only dream about," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers.

Under Canadian law, farmers in the Canadian Wheat Board "designated area" (i.e. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Peace district of B.C.) are prohibited from directly exporting their wheat and barley or selling these grains to a Canadian grain processor. Farmers in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada are free to sell their grain to a buyer of their choice.

"Prairie farmers are among the few Canadians who are not free to sell the fruits of their labour," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. "Except for producers of plutonium, virtually every other Canadian is free to sell their property to whomever they please, whenever they please."

The Wheat Growers are merely seeking the harmonization of federal grain marketing regulations, so that business transactions that are permitted and applauded in one part of the country are not viewed as criminal activities in another.

"As proud Canadians, we simply want the same freedom that other citizens now enjoy," says Jolly-Nagel. "When Parliament resumes this fall, we urge all Members of Parliament outside the prairie region to join with MPs from the prairies and pass legislation to end this discrimination against western farmers."

"In the meantime, three cheers for the Aussies."

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