



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Look Forward to Higher Prices Under a Free Market

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers are pleased to see the federal government has introduced legislation yesterday that will harmonize barley marketing regulations across the country.

“Once passed, this legislation will give us the same marketing freedom that all other Canadian barley growers take for granted,” says Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “It’s our grain and we should be free to sell it to a buyer of our choice.”

The Wheat Growers are calling on all political parties to respect the wishes of western farmers and ensure Bill C-46 is passed in this Parliamentary session.

“Giving us a free market will allow us to take advantage of strong prices for malt and feed barley,” says Gerrid Gust, director of the Wheat Growers. “Our farm would see more acres of barley planted if I knew I could count on accessing these higher prices.”

Forward contracts for malt barley were being offered for over \$9.00 per bushel in U.S. markets last week. In contrast, the Canadian Wheat Board is projecting a price of \$6.45 per bushel, basis Saskatchewan, for malt barley in the next marketing season.

The Wheat Growers will be recommending the legislation be passed as is, with a confidence motion if necessary, so as to allow for speedy passage of the Bill. We will continue to strongly push for marketing freedom for wheat. Ontario wheat farmers are currently enjoying unfettered access to record high prices while western Canadian farmers are stuck with the comparatively poor returns being offered by the CWB. The magnitude of these losses demands immediate attention.

“Farmers want the freedom to market our own grain,” says Gust who spoke at the freedom rally on the steps of the Saskatchewan legislature last Friday. “The grain I grow on my farm is my property and I should have the right to sell it to any buyer, including the Canadian Wheat Board.”

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