



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers Object to Misuse of CWB Property by Incumbent Director**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association supports measures being taken by the Canadian Wheat Board to clarify that it does not endorse any CWB director candidates in this fall's election, but is disappointed that it is not specifically denouncing incumbent director Bill Toews for his misuse of CWB property.

During this election campaign, Bill Toews, the incumbent director in district 10 has used the CWB's logo on his campaign promotional materials, in direct contravention of the CWB's *Election Period Code of Conduct for Current CWB Directors*. The *Code* prohibits the use of CWB resources in support of any candidate. The Wheat Growers have written to both the CWB and to the Election Co-ordinator on the matter.

"The actions of Mr. Toews represent an abuse of his position as a CWB director," say Mike Bast, Chair of the Wheat Growers. "The use of the logo in his campaign material reflects poorly on his judgment and shows a lack of respect for the CWB's property and the farmers it represents."

Mr. Toews has used the CWB logo in his campaign signs and in a brochure that was mailed to farmers in district 10. The Election Co-ordinator instructed Mr. Toews to cover up the CWB logo on his campaign signs more than three weeks ago, but despite this, many of his signs continue to display the CWB logo.

The CWB has placed ads to clarify that it does not endorse any candidate, however it appears to be stopping short of publicly indicating that Mr. Toews used the logo without the CWB's authorization. It has also not indicated what action it will be taking to sanction Mr. Toews for his violation of the Code of Conduct.

"What are the consequences for breaking CWB election rules? What are the consequences for not heeding instructions of the Election Co-ordinator?" asks Bast. "This is why the Wheat Growers recommended a separate Election Commission, to oversee the election, rather than have the CWB police itself."

The Wheat Growers note that in a recent editorial, CWB Chair Larry Hill, stated that "*It is crucial that these elections be fair, with all candidates competing for votes on a level field.*"

The Wheat Growers are seeking assurances from Mr. Hill that he stands by his comments, and that the CWB will be taking appropriate sanctions against Mr. Toews. "The CWB needs to protect its reputation and ensure proper conduct of its directors," says Bast.

For further comment, please contact:

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