



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers Support Federal Government Appeal of CWB Court Ruling**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased the federal government has filed an appeal of a court ruling in June that would allow the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) to spend farmers' money on political activism if the decision is permitted to stand.

The federal court had overturned a government order to the CWB that it not spend farmers' money to promote the CWB monopoly. The Wheat Growers had urged the federal government to appeal the court decision.

"We're pleased to see the federal government act to safeguard money belonging to farmers," says Mike Bast, Chair of the Wheat Growers. "There is something seriously wrong with this country if I am forced to financially support political views that I disagree with."

The Wheat Growers maintain that Justice Hughes did not fully appreciate the compulsory nature of the CWB and how prairie farmers are prevented by law from selling their milling quality wheat or malting quality barley to any other buyer. The CWB is constituted under an Act of Parliament, and like all other government-created institutions, should not be permitted to express political views.

"No Canadian should be forced to support political causes they don't believe in," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. "The CWB should stick to the business of marketing our grain, and leave the politics to others."

The Wheat Growers note the monopoly only remains in place because Eastern politicians refuse to give Western farmers the same marketing freedom now enjoyed by farmers in Ontario. The Wheat Growers support marketing choice, where individual farmers are free to sell to a buyer of their choice, including a voluntary CWB.

"The CWB should not be choosing sides," says Bast. "Its role is to market grain to the best of its ability. It should be working with farmers, not taking political positions that pit neighbour against neighbour."

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