



December 22, 2005

National Post

Letter to the Editor,

I read with astonishment the condescending comments by the Prime Minister in Wednesday's paper, in which he told Canadian farmers that "it is a little hard to find new buyers around the world when you are on a combine. There is a role for government here."

I'm one of those farmers who has both driven a combine and who has sold grain around the world, although regrettably not my wheat and barley. I would be more than happy if the government gave me the freedom to market all of my grain, whether it's down the road to a local miller or to a buyer halfway around the world.

Ontario farmers have that freedom, however in western Canada, the federal government continues to treat us like children by forcing us to deliver our food quality wheat and barley to the Canadian Wheat Board, a state monopoly that is kept in place by Paul Martin's government against the wishes of those farmers who grow most of the grain in western Canada.

The Wheat Growers realize there are some farmers who want a government-controlled agency to market their grain, but we're not among them. We want the government out of our way, so that we too have an opportunity to market our grain in a way that meets the individual business needs of our farms.

The Prime Minister's comments are so typical of the paternalistic Ottawa attitude that continues to treat westerners as second-class citizens who can't be allowed to manage their own affairs.

All we're asking is for this Prime Minister and his Party to respect the fact that many western farmers believe we have the tools necessary to market our own grain, and that his interference is not warranted or wanted. We want our marketing freedom, so that we too have the choice and opportunities that Canadian farmers outside the prairies take so much for granted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel".

Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel
President
Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association
Mossbank, SK

Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.