



Fax:

## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Agriculture Centre – 909 Irricana Road

Airdrie, AB T4A 2G6

Phone: (403) 912-3998

(403) 948-2069 (Airdrie office)

[www.wbga.org](http://www.wbga.org) Email: [wbga@wbga.org](mailto:wbga@wbga.org)

**For immediate release -- News Release**

### **Recommendations for CWB Director Elections Fail to Address Areas of Concern**

**December 20, 2005, Airdrie, AB:** "The two most contentious issues in the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) director elections, integrity of the voters list and a weighted vote, were not adequately addressed in the review panel's recommendations" commented Douglas McBain, President, Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA).

The panel recommended to change the eligibility to vote criteria to include only "actual producers" who have delivered 40 or more tonnes of grain to the Canadian Wheat Board in any one of the last two crop years.

"The recommendation to make delivery to the CWB a requirement in being considered an "actual producer" demonstrates that the panel was more focused on excluding voters than working to ensure that farmers who have an economic stake are included" said McBain.

Current regulations governing director elections extend the opportunity to vote to all producers; delivering to the CWB is not a requirement.

"In our submission to the panel, the WBGA recommended that all bonafide farmers be included on the voter's list and sent a ballot. We also made it clear that when the CWB is voluntary, we would support a requirement to conduct business with the CWB as a criteria for voter eligibility" stated McBain.

In its recommendations, the panel rejected a weighted vote because "the Canadian Wheat Board is not a true shareholder corporation."

"It is just because the CWB is unlike any other corporation that a weighted vote is required. Farmers who produce more grain have a greater economic stake, therefore they need a greater say in its operations" commented McBain.

"The CWB monopoly on the sale of wheat and barley affects all farmers and its success or failure in the market place plays a pivotal role in decisions producers make. It is important that the producer's voice is enhanced not reduced. We will be making that case to the minister responsible for the CWB" added McBain.

For further information contact:

Douglas McBain, President  
Cremona, AB  
Phone/Fax: (403) 637-3880  
[dmc bain@wbga.org](mailto:dmc bain@wbga.org)

Jeff Nielsen, Vice President  
Olds, AB  
Phone: (403) 556-3035 Fax:  
(403) 556-5978  
[jeffniel@platinum.ca](mailto:jeffniel@platinum.ca)

Albert Wagner, Past President  
Stony Plain, AB  
Phone: (780) 963-7753 Fax:  
(780) 963-8753  
[ajwccr@telusplanet.net](mailto:ajwccr@telusplanet.net)

### **Western Barley Growers Association**

A strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western Canada