



## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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For Immediate Release -- News Release

### CWB unauthorized spending of producer's money ordered to stop

**October 11, 2006 – Airdrie, AB:** "It's about time, that producer's money is stopped from being used inappropriately by the CWB. Our new government has finally corrected an oversight allowed by the former Liberal government in letting the CWB use producers monies for policy advocating and lobbying". Jeff Nielsen, WBGA President, goes on to say "the order in council given to the CWB directs them to focus on their primary duty to western Canadian farmers". "These duties, as stated in the CWB Act are to sell all grains offered to it (the CWB) and return all monies less administration to producers". This order as it is points out that now and in the future the role of the CWB is to work for the farmers that sell to it and not to spend monies other wise. The role of the CWB is to be a marketer of western Canadian grains, not a public policy advocate.

"Continuing to fight with the Minister has created concern in western Canada and with our international buyers. By not adhering and following directives from the Minister the CWB has and is bringing this cause of concern upon its self yet the person that it affects the most is the producer here in the west - the one they claim to be representing." We fully support Minister Strahl and his comments that **"The CWB reports to Parliament through me, and should not be attempting to undermine this government's policy objectives."**

Mr. Ritter holds to the idea that they are not accountable to Parliament but only to farmers, yet in a federal court of Canada it stated "the board was not and is not accountable to individual producers. Rather, the Board is accountable only to Parliament. Therefore, neither the Board nor the Crown owed any legal duty to the plaintiffs (farmers)".

The CWB has been asked by government to work with them in creating a new environment yet has refused.

The CWB have refused to be part of the government's task force for transition to choice marketing.

The CWB went against the Ministers wishes and released its "Harvesting Opportunities" that calls for a 1.5 billion dollar taxpayer subsidy, one that is not world trade acceptable, and one that maintains the monopoly powers that are not what progressive farmers or our government wants.

I call upon the CWB to truly work for producers, and work towards becoming an entity whereby producers can still use in an open market. A plebiscite is not the answer and will only lead to more division among producers. One farmer does not have the authority to determine another farmers' right of ownership. Oats, pulses, canola and specialty crops trade freely and the system works. It's time for us to have the same rights for our wheat and barley, and see value added brought back to western Canada and increased returns to the farm gate.

**Her Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, pursuant to subsection 18(1) of the Canadian Wheat Board Act, hereby directs the Canadian Wheat Board to conduct its operations under that act in the following manner:**

**It shall not expend funds, directly or indirectly, on advocating the retention of its monopoly powers, including the expenditure of funds for advertising, publishing or market research: and  
It shall not provide funds to any other person or entity to enable them to advocate the retention of monopoly powers of the Canadian Wheat Board.**

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