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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CGC CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S TERM EXTENDED
CGC EMBARKS ON ANOTHER REVIEW
NFU WARNS OF PROGRAM CUTS**

SASKATOON, Sask.—Minister of Agriculture Lyle Vanclief has announced that Barry Senft's term as Chief Commissioner has been extended for six months. Senft's term was to expire March 31, 2002. It will now expire at the end of September.

"We are extremely disappointed that Minister Vanclief has extended Mr. Senft's term. For the past five years, Mr. Senft has been intent on dismantling the regulatory powers of the CGC that currently protect farmers' interests," said NFU President Stewart Wells.

The CGC also announced an "internal review" that will report to Minister Vanclief by October, 2002. The internal review will focus on CGC funding and reducing costs.

"Farmers remember the CGC's last review, the 1999 *Program Review*. That document was a grain-company wish-list of cuts to the CGC. Mr. Senft's term has been extended so that he can preside over this new review. He has been retained to finish the work he has started: weakening and dismantling the CGC," said Wells. Changes to the CGC may require amendments to the *Canada Grain Act*.

The CGC's work to ensure high-quality grain to our customers costs farmers about 5¢ per bushel. Cuts proposed in the '99 *Program Review* would have saved grain companies about 1¢ per bushel—it is unclear whether grain companies would have passed these savings on to farmers. "For a strong CGC, farmers are willing to pay the penny," said Wells. "Leave the Grain Act alone, maintain a strong CGC, and replace Barry Senft," he concluded.

The NFU will work aggressively to represent farmers' interests and to oppose all attempts to weaken the CGC. The NFU was one of the first organizations to raise concerns about the direction of the CGC and has had successes in heading off the cuts proposed in the *Program and Governance Reviews*.

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