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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MANITOBA NFU CALLS ON ELECTIONS CANADA TO CONDUCT CWB ELECTION**

**WASAGAMING, Manitoba** – Delegates at the Manitoba regional convention of the National Farmers Union (NFU) are concerned about a perceived bias involving the chair of the accounting firm overseeing the upcoming Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) elections.

A resolution adopted at the NFU Manitoba regional convention in late July calls on the federal government to turn the CWB election process over to Elections Canada

In the resolution, NFU delegates recommend the federal government stop using the accounting firm of Meyers Norris Penny to conduct the CWB elections. They note that Donald Penny, chair of Meyers Norris Penny, was until recently a member of the Board of Directors of the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. Penny served on the Frontier Centre's board from May 31, 2002 to June 4, 2004.

Despite an "arms-length" arrangement absolving its Board of Directors from direct responsibility for publications and events sponsored by the Frontier Centre, the bias of the think tank is quite obvious, stated Ken Sigurdson, NFU Coordinator for Manitoba.

The Frontier Centre has consistently advocated policies which directly undermine the CWB, and posts vehemently anti-CWB articles on its website. Sigurdson suggests the CWB elections need to be conducted by an independent electoral agency. The NFU has consistently called for Elections Canada to handle the task.

"The CWB elections have to be conducted fairly," said Sigurdson. "There have been questions raised about lack of enforcement of the CWB Elections Act in the past. For example, Jim Downey, an anti-CWB candidate in the 2002 election in District 9, exceeded the \$15,000 spending limit without facing legal consequences."

CWB elections in even-numbered districts are slated for this fall, and Sigurdson says the federal government should take appropriate steps immediately to put Elections Canada in charge of the balloting process.

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