

# FARMERS:

**15 minutes of your time can help save  
the Canadian Wheat Board.**

**You write the letter, we'll get it to MPs and  
make sure your voice is heard.**

## **MP WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF A STRONG CWB**

- **The goal:** Each and every Member of Parliament in Ottawa will receive 1,000 letters from farmers who support the strong Canadian Wheat Board that includes single-desk selling authority over all (non-feed) wheat and barley, and that is controlled by a Board of Directors elected by farmers.
- **What you need to do to help:** Take 15 minutes to write a letter to your MP outlining your support for the CWB and its single desk. Make the points you want to make, or look inside this flyer for some inspiration. Your letter doesn't have to be typed; handwritten letters are as good, or better. Page two of this flyer contains a sample letter and some tips for writing yours.

One of the themes we need to stress in our letters is that farmers, not Ottawa politicians, control the CWB. We control it through our elected Board of Directors. The CWB is our Board: our Business. Any action now by the government is interference in farmers' business. We don't want the CWB weakened.

**Address your letter to your MP. Make your letter no more than one page long.**  
Write it to your MP and "cc" it to "All MPs". Sign it.

**BUT DON'T MAIL IT TO YOUR MP.**

**→→→ Mail your letter to the NFU office. ←←←**

**2717 Wentz Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7K 4B6**

**Or fax it to: (306) 664-6226**

- **What the NFU office will do:** Office staff will forward your letter to your MP, and staff will fax a copy to each of the other 305 MPs. MPs from all parties will learn about the support the CWB enjoys. If 1,000 farmers compose letters, over 300,000 letters will arrive in Ottawa.

This Write-in Campaign is just one part of a larger set of actions, meetings, protests, and educational materials designed to protect farmers' rights to collectively market their crops and to exercise power in global markets dominated by grain giants.

**Please take 15 minutes today to write a letter and please send it to the NFU office. We'll see that your letter makes a big impact and that your efforts are combined with the efforts of hundreds of rural and urban Canadians. Together, we can maintain a strong, effective CWB.**

*Thank you.*

# Sample letter

**Address your letter to your MP. BUT MAIL OR FAX THE LETTER TO THE NFU OFFICE. We'll forward it to your MP, and to all 305 other MPs.**

**Include this 'cc'**

September 18, 2006

David Anderson, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

cc: All Members of Parliament

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I am a farmer and voter in your riding in southern Saskatchewan, and I do not agree with your position on the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB).

Elected farmers now make up the majority of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Wheat Board, and it is these farmers who should be directing the operations of the CWB – not the Federal or Provincial governments.

The CWB exercises some market power on behalf of Canadian farmers in a world marketplace dominated by a few huge players like Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland. The majority of farmers and the elected CWB Directors understand that this market power advantage exists only as long as the CWB maintains its position as a single seller facing hundreds of buyers around the world.

Orderly marketing of farm products continues to provide tremendous benefits to Canadian farmers and the country as a whole. The benefit of the Canadian Wheat Board to western Canadian farmers has been estimated to be at least \$800 million per year over and above what farmers would otherwise receive selling to the private grain trade.

Your government needs to let the CWB evolve under the direction of the farmer-elected CWB Directors.

Yours truly,



Stewart Wells  
Swift Current, Saskatchewan

**Write your letter using your own words and including your own points. Please consider including the point that farmers control the CWB now. The government shouldn't interfere by making major changes.**

**Your signature here**

**Include your phone and fax numbers and complete address.**

## **REMEMBER:**

- Handwritten letters are just as good as, or better than, typed ones;
- Address your letter to your MP, **but send your letter to the NFU office;**
- Include a "cc" to "All Members of Parliament";
- Include the points you want to make regarding a strong Canadian Wheat Board and its single desk powers;
- Include your address and phone and fax numbers;
- Send the letter to the NFU, by mail (see front page for address) or fax (306-664-6226); and
- Take a moment to fill in the card on the next page and support our work financially, or by becoming a member.

## Some points to give you inspiration for your letter.

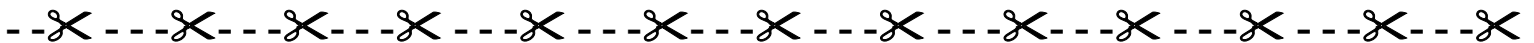
- The CWB puts an additional \$800 million in farmers' pockets every year.
- \$800 million is over \$10 per acre of western cropland—about \$20,000 per year on a medium-sized farm. We can't afford to lose the CWB.
- Farmers control the CWB, through the farmer-elected Board of Directors; government actions to dismantle the CWB are interference.
- Farmers have consistently demonstrated strong support for the CWB and its single desk. Farmers are not calling for changes.
- Working collectively through the single desk, western farmers control 10% of world wheat exports, *nearly half* of high-quality wheat exports, and 23% of malting barley exports. The CWB gives farmers *clout.*
- The CWB gives farmers a strong voice in grain transportation. Without the CWB, freight rates could rise to North Dakota levels—double current values. That would cost farmers \$1.35 billion per year.
- There is no CWB without its single desk. Stripped of its monopoly, the CWB is just an office tower—an undercapitalized co-operative without elevators. It's crazy to think that it would continue to wield power against Cargill and ADM.
- Price pooling gives farmers low-cost risk management; distributes the benefits of CWB branding, market surveillance, and market development; and allows farmers to concentrate on growing crops rather than on trying to out-compete their neighbours.

*more points on next page....*

This information is brought to you by the National Farmers Union. For over thirty years, the NFU has taken a lead role in defending a strong CWB and its single desk marketing authority. This Write-in Campaign is just one part of a larger set of actions, meetings, protests, and educational materials designed to protect farmers' rights to collectively market their crops and to exercise power in global markets dominated by grain giants.

The cost of winning this battle will be high. **If the NFU is to succeed in ensuring that the CWB remains the cornerstone of farmer empowerment in Western Canada, your membership in our organization and your financial support are absolutely critical.**

Please support the work of the NFU and contribute to safeguarding the CWB. Please mail in the card below and become a member or make a financial contribution to this important work.



The CWB puts \$800 million per year in farmers' pockets. That's over \$10 per acre of western cropland. **Losing the CWB will cost a medium-sized farm \$10,000 to \$20,000 in lost revenue, per year!** Invest \$150 today to safeguard your farm's future. Join the NFU.

**Cut off this card, fill out the flipside, and mail it, along with a cheque, to:**

**National Farmers Union  
2717 Wentz Avenue  
Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 4B6**

Rather use a credit card? Call the NFU office at (306) 652-9465

*over...*

- Dismantling the CWB will set in motion a series of events that will lead to the end of regulated freight rates, producer car loading, the Canadian Grain Commission, and, ultimately, any vestige of a distinct Canadian grain system. We'll become an appendage of the US system—North Dakota North.
- Dismantling the CWB means deregulating and privatizing a key part of our food supply—turning control over to US-based transnationals. Ottawa's plan is to replace a farmer-controlled marketing system that returns profits to Canadian farmers with a system controlled by Cargill and ADM that returns profits to US-based investors.
- After watching Cargill abuse beef farmers and taxpayers during the BSE crisis, why would we hand that corporation control of, and profits from, Canadian wheat and barley sales?
- Under NAFTA (Chapter 11), if the CWB loses its single desk powers there is no going back. This is not a reversible experiment.
- We're coming up to CWB Board of Directors elections. The government should do nothing until after farmers have indicated their will and new Directors assume their roles.
- Canada's grain handling and transportation system is constrained. The US has one bushel of commercial storage for every two bushels of production. Canada has one-fifth as much—one bushel of storage for every *ten* bushels of production. It's not possible to push the Canadian crop through the system in a couple of months. Without the CWB's single desk and price pooling facilitating orderly throughput, our constrained system won't function.
- Section 47 (1) of the CWB Act requires a vote before any grain is removed from CWB single-desk jurisdiction; it's the law!
- The CWB returns 100% of prices to farmers. (The CWB's costs are completely offset by its government-guaranteed interest rate advantage.)
- Without the CWB, there would now be genetically-modified wheat in our foods and fields. The CWB was a key player in the struggle to stop GM wheat, thus preventing billions of dollars in market losses.
- The CWB is the world's most transparent grain marketer. Farmers have access to Auditor General reports, CWB Annual Reports, 1-800-ASK 4 CWB, Directors' meetings, Grain World, "Grain Matters" newsletter, calls to Directors, etc.
- Without the CWB advocating for farmers, it is unlikely that producer car loading, shortline railways, or producer car loading facilities would continue to exist and to form competitive disciplines on grain companies.
- US government and corporate interests have attacked the CWB 14 times, and each time the CWB and Canadian farmers successfully defended themselves. It would be an outrage for the Canadian government to now do what Cargill and Congress failed 14 times to do.

**Take 15 minutes to draft a letter. And please support the NFU's efforts on your behalf by becoming a member or supporting our work financially.**



- YES, I want to join the NFU.** I've enclosed a cheque for \$150. (Non-farmers can become non-voting Associate Members for \$50.)
- YES, I want to contribute financially to the work of the NFU.** I've enclosed a cheque to support the NFU's work.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Box Number or Street Number) (Town/City) (Postal Code)

*Thank you.*

*over...*