

National Office
2717 Wentz Ave.
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7K 4B6
Tel (306) 652-9465
Fax (306) 664-6226
E-Mail: nfu@nfu.ca



national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FARMERS' RALLY PROVES STRONG SUPPORT EXISTS FOR CWB

Hundreds of farmers from across western Canada converged on the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) building in downtown Winnipeg December 14 in a show of support for their marketing agency.

At a meeting in Oak Bluff prior to the rally, several hundred farmers passed a unanimous resolution demanding the federal government rescind its threat to fire CWB President Adrian Measner. They also condemned the government's string of anti-democratic actions which include tampering with voters' lists and purging CWB Directors who support the single desk.

NFU President Stewart Wells, addressing the meeting in Oak Bluff, said the actions of the federal government amount to a "hostile takeover" of the farmers' marketing agency. "In 1998, control over the CWB was handed over to farmers, and farmers elect Directors to represent their interests," he said. "This government is taking control away from farmers." He said the government's actions are a warning that democracy is not safe in Canada, and he urged farmers to "hold the line" on the CWB.

At the rally, CWB President Adrian Measner confirmed he will continue to support the single desk and abide by the CWB Act, despite the imminent threat by the government. "Based on my 32 years of experience in the grain industry, and based on the direction given to me by the farmer-elected Board of Directors, I will continue to support the single-desk marketing of prairie grain," he told the crowd. "I find it incredible that I've been asked to follow the course laid out by the Government of Canada, which is not the law of Canada – and if I continue to follow the laws of Canada, and continue to follow the direction given to me by the farmer-elected Board of Directors, that I will be terminated."

Other speakers at the rally included representatives of Real Voice for Choice coalition in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and Bill Dobson, President of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (WRAP) of Alberta.

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Contact: Stewart Wells, NFU President (306) 773-6852 or (306) 741-7694
Terry Pugh, NFU Executive-Secretary (306) 652-9465



Enclosed photo - several hundred farmers gather outside Canadian Wheat Board building in downtown Winnipeg to show support for their marketing agency and CWB President Adrian Measner.