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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FIRING OF CWB PRESIDENT LATEST ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACT
BY HARPER GOVERNMENT**

The firing of Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) President and CEO Adrian Measner — whose record at the helm of the \$4 billion farmers’ marketing agency has been exemplary — is the latest in a string of anti-democratic actions by the Harper Conservatives, says National Farmers Union (NFU) President Stewart Wells.

“For the first time in my life I am genuinely concerned about the future of this country,” stated Wells. “Watching the Harper Conservatives engage in what amounts to a reign of terror against the CWB has shattered my notion of Canada as a safe country that is based on democracy.”

Wells characterized the firing of Mr. Measner as “a vicious and savage act” that has already hurt Canada’s international reputation. Letters of concern have recently been pouring in to the CWB office from such major companies as COFCO (China’s largest grain purchaser), Warburton’s (Europe’s largest single end-user of western Canadian wheat), Grupo Altex (Mexico’s largest wheat milling group, and Canada Malting (Canada’s largest barley maltster). The market turbulence generated in the wake of the government’s attack on the CWB has undermined years of market development efforts.

“Mr. Measner is a friend of the farmer and a true Canadian hero for not knuckling under to the ideological lunacy coming from the Harper Conservatives,” stated Wells.

The Harper Conservatives engaged in election tampering during the CWB Director elections; purged CWB Directors who supported the single desk and replaced them with appointees who will toe the party line; and imposed gag orders on the CWB. “This is the same government that claims it will bring ‘democracy’ to the Senate,” said Wells. “Canadians who understand what true democracy is will see through this Jekyll and Hyde routine.”

Wells concluded that if they truly believed in democracy, Conservative MPs would follow the lead of Manitoba MP Inky Mark, who is honestly representing his constituents by supporting the CWB single desk.

He pointed out that David Anderson, MP for Cypress Hills Grasslands, represents a constituency whose boundaries closely align with the boundaries of the CWB District in which incumbent CWB Director Larry Hill – a supporter of the single-desk - won by a landslide majority.

- 30 -

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