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**national farmers union**

***In Union Is Strength***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MANITOBA SHOWS REAL LEADERSHIP ON CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD**

“Gary Doer, Rosann Wowchuk, and the Government of Manitoba are showing real leadership on the Canadian Wheat Board file by calling an immediate plebiscite on both wheat and barley,” says Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Wells said the Manitoba plebiscite questions are clear and fair:

### ***“Wheat Marketing:***

\_\_\_\_\_ *I wish to maintain the ability to market all wheat, with the continuing exception of feed wheat sold domestically, through the CWB single desk system.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I wish to remove the single desk marketing system from the CWB and sell all wheat through an open market system.*

### ***Barley Marketing:***

\_\_\_\_\_ *I wish to maintain the ability to market all barley, both malting/food, with the continuing exception of feed barley sold domestically, through the CWB single desk system.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I wish to remove the single desk marketing system from the CWB and sell all barley through an open market system.”*

“It is never anyone’s first choice to run a campaign over the Christmas holidays, but this timeline has been forced on farmers by the Federal Government,” stated Wells. “The Harper Conservatives are destroying the international reputation of the Canadian Wheat Board and costing farmers lost sales. This is deliberate sabotage by the Federal government and must be stopped. The Manitoba plebiscite will bring some much-needed sanity to the debate, and it stands in stark contrast to the draconian and destructive measures launched by the Federal Government.”

Losing a strong Wheat Board will cost Manitoba farmers hundreds of millions of dollars annually in direct costs, said Wells, adding indirect costs such as the loss of the Port of Churchill and skyrocketing freight rates will steal hundreds of millions more from farmers’ pockets.

With its actions today, the Government of Manitoba is placing the future of the Wheat Board back in farmers’ hands, where it belongs, stated Wells. “The Harper Conservatives

are isolated in their belief that the Wheat Board should be always under the thumb of the Federal Government.”

The National Farmers Union urges all eligible farmers to vote in this plebiscite in order to send a strong message to those who would destroy the Canadian Wheat Board on the basis of ideological delusions.

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