

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

October 24, 2006

MINISTER MISLEADS: CWB DID NOT CONCUR ON CUTS TO VOTERS' LIST

More controversy has arisen over the federal Minister of Agriculture's decision to interfere with the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) Director election process. The CWB has denied the Minister's claim that the CWB endorsed the Minister's initiative to take one-third of the voters off the voters' list for the upcoming CWB Director elections.

Responding to Minister Strahl's October 17 House of Commons statements that he had made a "suggestion" that the voters list be cut and that the "CWB agreed and said it was a pretty good idea," the CWB stated: **"Actually, the Minister instructed the CWB to make these changes; it was not a 'suggestion.' Nor was the CWB given any opportunity to express any opinion concerning the merits of the Minister's instruction."** The CWB statement was contained in its e-mail "Bulletin", dated October 23, 2006.

"The Minister's heavy-handed interference in the CWB Director elections halfway through the election period is unbelievable," stated NFU President Stewart Wells. "This has now been compounded by the Minister's decision to deliberately mislead the House of Commons as to how the event unfolded. This is precisely the kind of behaviour by politicians that leads to public disdain and mistrust of the system."

When asked about the discrepancy in the House of Commons yesterday by Liberal MP Wayne Easter, Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl tried to make a joke out of the government's election tampering.

"Well, farmers aren't laughing," stated Wells. "In addition to being disenfranchised by the Minister, farmers have to pay extra costs, possibly into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, for all of the new confusion. The government must be held accountable for the disenfranchisement, and extra cost."

- 30 -

Contact: Stewart Wells, NFU President (306) 773-6852 or (306) 741-7694
Darrin Qualman, NFU Director of Research (306) 652-9465