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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NFU CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION OF GOVERNMENT ELECTION TAMPERING**

In testimony before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture today in Ottawa, National Farmers Union (NFU) President Stewart Wells raised concerns about the federal government's tampering with the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) director election.

Wells made two recommendations to the Agriculture Committee:

“The NFU recommends that the Standing Committee on Agriculture use all means available to investigate the events that led to changes being announced by the Minister of Agriculture to the Canadian Wheat Board director elections, halfway through the election process,” he said.

“The NFU also recommends that the Standing Committee on Agriculture find a way to force the federal government to reimburse the Canadian Wheat Board its direct costs, as well as individual farmers' extra costs, resulting from the government changing the CWB director election rules halfway through the election process.”

Well said less than two weeks have gone by since the Minister of Agriculture moved unilaterally to change the director election rules which led to over 16,000 farmers being excluded from the voters' list. In that time, the Minister has offered two conflicting explanations, neither of which fits with the established facts.

“The Standing Committee needs to investigate in order to ascertain whether the federal government is deliberately sabotaging the director elections, or if the changes are the result of unbelievable incompetence on the part of the government,” stated Wells. “The Committee needs to figure out which shoe fits.”

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