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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR AIMED AT DESTABILIZING CWB

The appointment of Ken Motiuk as a Director of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) by the federal government is aimed at “destabilizing” the CWB, says the President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Stewart Wells said this appointment flies in the face of past Director appointments, which were designed to ensure appropriate expertise was brought to the CWB Board table to complement the knowledge of the farmer-elected Directors. “Mr. Motiuk’s primary qualification for this appointment seems to be his commitment to destroying orderly marketing and the single desk,” stated Wells. “While his association with various grain companies and the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange shows he is familiar with the grain business, they also show whose interests he represents.”

Wells said it is significant that Mr. Motiuk is a former Board member of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers, an organization that has worked for decades to eliminate the CWB. Federal Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl admitted as much in the opening paragraph of his press release announcing the appointment, when he characterized Motiuk as “a strong supporter of marketing choice.”

“This appointment is the latest in a series of actions that show the federal government is going against the wishes of the majority of western Canadian farmers,” stated Wells. “For the most part, western Canadian farmers have not been electing open market candidates during the CWB election process. Instead of accepting this message from farmers, the government is now appointing the type of person that farmers refused to elect.”

“Since the first elections in 1998, more than thirty open market candidates have run, but only four open market candidates have ever been elected to the CWB Board of Directors,” stated Wells, “And two of those candidates later changed their minds and were re-elected on a platform of supporting the single desk.”

Wells concluded that farmers must elect strong Board members during this round of elections in odd-numbered districts. “There is some speculation that open market candidates may not run because they would be afraid of losing and taking momentum away from the government’s heavy-handed actions. Regardless, farmers must make sure

they have strong candidates nominated in every district – candidates who are able to stand up to the abuse and ideology of this Conservative government.”

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