

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**

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**GOVERNMENT ANTI-CWB SPENDING CONTINUES:  
NFU REITERATES CALL FOR AUDITOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION**

**SWIFT CURRENT, Sask.**—The federal government has spent nearly \$1.2 million on ads as part of its campaign to dismantle the Canadian Wheat Board. At the same time, however, it has imposed a gag order on the CWB—decreeing that the Board shall spend zero communicating with farmers about the benefits of CWB single-desk selling.

At the same time, against the wishes of the CWB Board of Directors, the federal government fired CWB CEO Adrian Measner. It did so without cause, triggering potentially millions in severance payments. It then moved to foist the cost of the severance package onto the Wheat Board, hence, onto farmers.

“The federal government is attacking the CWB and forcing the CWB and farmers to pay the costs. The government is spending farmers’ and taxpayers’ money without regard for due process, fairness, or accountability. The NFU has reiterated its call to Auditor General Sheila Fraser to investigate the government’s spending and conduct,” said NFU President Stewart Wells.

The NFU wrote to Fraser in April, outlining a detailed set of irregularities surrounding the government’s CWB plebiscite. Today, the NFU added new information pertaining to government spending and conduct and renewed its call for an Auditor General’s investigation.

Documents obtained by the NFU through the Access To Information (ATI) process show spending since February 2006 at over \$1.19 million dollars. The NFU is awaiting further documents and expects the total to go higher.

Also, the federal government has spent taxpayers’ money promoting its ill-conceived Order-in-Council on barley marketing from June 2007. The government then had to spend large amounts of money to defend itself in Federal Court on the issue— a defence which the government lost. But instead of cutting the taxpayers’ losses at that point, the government has insisted on appealing the Federal Court ruling. This appeal will again cost the taxpayers’ even more money.

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For More Information:

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

