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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MANITOBA PLEBISCITE RESULTS SHOW FARMERS SUPPORT CWB**

Manitoba farmers have shown they are solidly in favour of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and the single desk sales advantage for both wheat and barley, says Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

The results of a referendum among that province's farmers showed that 70% favour the single desk for wheat and 62% favour the single desk for barley. The rate of return on ballots was 65%.

"We think it was a very accurate reflection of the views of farmers," stated Wells.

"We congratulate the Province of Manitoba for following through on the plebiscite," stated Wells, noting the provincial referendum was announced before the federal government committed itself to any vote among farmers. "Manitoba showed real leadership. We think it was a good initiative because they asked a question that was fair and clear."

Wells noted the question was identical to one which was advocated by producer groups and which was endorsed by the House of Commons.

The NFU President expressed disappointment the federal government has still not released the question that it intends to use in a barley plebiscite scheduled to begin January 31. He noted that in 1997, when former Wheat Board Minister Ralph Goodale conducted a plebiscite on barley, the question was publicized many months in advance.

"What motive does the Harper government have for not releasing the plebiscite question?" concluded Wells. "It appears they will say or do anything to kill the Wheat Board."

- 30 -

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