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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 19, 2007

FEDERAL BUDGET OR THRONE SPEECH?

“The federal budget does not materially change the prospects for farmers in Canada,” says Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union.

Wells was commenting on the Budget announced today, which:

- Re-announced a producer savings program first unveiled 2 weeks ago
- Has added some tax incentives for alternate fuel sources
- Provided a small change to capital gains exemptions for farmers

Wells said the budget’s primary focus appears to be a possible election. Otherwise, it’s a very “unfocused” document. “This is more like a Throne Speech than a Budget,” stated Wells.

“The actual dollars involved in the agricultural producer savings plan will not, for instance, be equal to the loss of the Canadian Wheat Board if the government succeeds in its destruction, stated Wells. “Also, there doesn’t appear to be any meaningful improvement in public research for agriculture.”

“Other proposals – like reducing regulatory requirements for energy projects, promoting TILMA, and accelerated regulatory harmonization with the United States - may be setting the stage for problems down the road. Farmers may be negatively affected by faster approval times for pipelines or transmission lines.”

“All things considered, this is an uninspired, unfocused Budget. It does not signal a course correction for Canadian agricultural policy at a time when it is desperately needed, concluded Wells.

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