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**national farmers union**

***In Union Is Strength***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2008**

**FARMERS RALLY IN CAMROSE, NORTH BATTLEFORD; ATTEND COURT HEARING IN WINNIPEG FEBRUARY 26 TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR CWB**

The Friends of the Canadian Wheat Board will be holding a rally on Tuesday, February 26 in Camrose, Alberta, to show support for the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) single desk, and to protest the Harper Government's undemocratic attempts to destroy the farmers' marketing agency.

The rally will be held outside the constituency office of Kevin Sorenson, Conservative Member of Parliament for Crowfoot, 4945 – 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Camrose, beginning at 10:00 AM.

A similar demonstration is being planned the same day outside Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz's constituency office in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, beginning at 2:00 PM.

Dale Fankhanel, a farmer from Ferintosh, Alberta and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Farmers Union (NFU), says the rallies are designed to coincide with a Federal Appeal Court hearing taking place in Winnipeg the same day. On July 26, the Federal Court ruled the Harper Government had illegally attempted to remove barley from the CWB single desk through regulation. The government is appealing that decision and the case is being heard February 26 in Winnipeg.

NFU President Stewart Wells will be in Winnipeg at the court hearing February 26. Wells described the appeal as a "colossal waste of taxpayers' money and judge's time, especially when the Minister has said he will introduce legislation anyway."

Fankhanel said the rallies are designed to "show the Federal and Provincial Conservative governments that while our lawyer and fellow farmers are in Winnipeg today defending our rights under the Canadian Wheat Board Act, we are here out in the country supporting them. The Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz need to know we are not going to allow their undemocratic, iron-fisted attempt to destroy the CWB."

Fankhanel cited the unjustified firing of former CWB CEO Adrian Measner and former CWB Vice-President Deanna Allen, the manipulation of the last CWB Director electoral process, and a fraudulent barley plebiscite as among the tactics employed by the Harper administration.

He concluded the real reason the Harper Government wants to eliminate the CWB and turn the barley market over to the private grain companies is to depress barley prices at the farm gate. In a news conference earlier this month, Ritz stated: ***“But we have a struggling livestock sector out there that needs a lot more barley in the ground, not less, to try and bring the price down.”***

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