

# Friends of the Canadian Wheat Board

*--a coalition of farmers and other Canadians in support of democracy, and a farmer-controlled CWB*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FCWB RESPONDS TO COURT DECISION REGARDING CWB DIRECTOR ELECTIONS**

Winnipeg: The Friends of the Canadian Wheat Board (FCWB) are pleased with today's Federal Court hearing regarding Canadian Wheat Board voter list manipulation by the Federal government. Mr. Justice O'Reilly has reserved his decision but will rule before the end of the week.

The Friends have made an application for an expedited hearing into the federal government's voter manipulation in the Canadian Wheat Board Director elections. On behalf of farmers and citizens that believe in democracy and a farmer-controlled Wheat Board, the Friends have objected to the Federal government taking away voting privileges from thousands of legitimate farmer voters. The federal government has opposed an expedited hearing in order that the government interference with the election procedures cannot be corrected until well after the elections are over.

Compounding the government's attack on basic democratic rights is an application form which does not allow permit book holders to apply to get back on the voters' list. On the application form, applicants have to swear that "The land described above does not appear on a Canadian Wheat Board permit book for the crop year 2007/2008 or 2008/2009." By definition, any permit book holder that has had their vote taken away by the government would have had their land listed in a permit book in 2007/2008 or 2008/2009.

"The government has created the situation where disenfranchised farmers that had land listed in their permit books are not able to apply for a vote in the election. Also, permit book holders that grew peas and canary seed in recent years may be similarly affected because peas and canary seed are not considered to be one of the six major grains. This government's direct interference with the voting process has already created a lot of confusion and tainted the election outcome," said Stewart Wells, one of the applicants in the federal case.

"It is obvious that the government fears another loss in court on this issue—the government has already lost three times in federal court on similar attempts to destroy the Canadian Wheat Board," concluded Wells. "The government's interference in the CWB's elections, and the further opposition of an expedited hearing are a disgrace to this country and the largest possible insult to democratically-minded farmers."

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