

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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FARMERS APPLAUD OPPOSITION EFFORTS ON BILL C-13

“The Opposition parties in Ottawa have listened to farmers and consumers,” says Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU). “And as a result, the Opposition parties are slowing down the second reading debate of Bill C-13, *An Act to Amend the Canada Grain Act*.”

Alex Atamanenko, NDP member for BC-Southern Interior spearheaded a “Hoist” motion April 2, which would delay second reading of Bill C-13 for 6 months. If passed, this motion would effectively move further discussion of amendments to the *Canada Grain Act* into the next session of Parliament. As well, Bill C-13 could not be re-introduced “as is”, and would have to be re-drafted by the government before re-introduction.

“The Liberal Party, led by the party’s Agriculture Critic, Wayne Easter, must be commended for their attention to the concerns of farmers and consumers as well,” stated Wells. “Their support of the ‘Hoist’ motion shows that the Liberals do understand the importance of the Canadian Grain Commission to Canada’s farmers and consumers”.

The NFU President also singled out the contribution by Bloc Québécois (BQ) Agriculture Critic André Bellavance. He noted the BQ also showed a strong commitment to food safety and the concerns of Canada’s farmers and consumers.

“The Conservative Party has been saying one thing, and doing quite another for some time now,” continued Wells. “On one hand, the Prime Minister is talking about the strong regulations that Canada has for its financial sector and our perceived financial strength. The Harper government is basically trying to take credit for decisions made by previous governments. On the other hand, Bill C-13 is designed to deregulate Canada’s grain industry. It would pave the way for the sort of deregulation that led to the world’s financial disaster.”

“The National Farmers Union now hopes that the Conservative policy-makers will start to work with Canada’s farmers and consumers instead of against them”, concluded Wells. “It’s time for the Conservatives to start developing policies that are good for Canada’s family farmers.”

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Contact: Stewart Wells, NFU President (306) 773-6852 or (306) 741-7694