

Friends of the Canadian Wheat Board

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

Friends of CWB to Appeal Voters' List Court Ruling

Winnipeg, MB, February 26, 2010—“*The Friends of the Canadian Wheat Board (FCWB)* have today filed a Notice of Appeal regarding the Harper Government’s manipulation of the CWB voters’ list,” said Stewart Wells, spokesperson for the *FCWB*. Wells was commenting on the recent federal court ruling by the Hon. Justice James Russell in *FCWB v the Federal Government*.

“The farmers that brought this case forward believe that Justice Russell’s written judgment contains significant errors. We do not feel that Justice Russell was correct in his assessment and understanding of the problem that confronted farmers/CWB permit book holders when the Minister of Agriculture & Agri-food wrote a letter of instruction to the Canadian Wheat Board which over-rode the Regulations respecting the CWB Act,” continued Wells.

“The eligibility, rights, and responsibilities of CWB permit book holders are spelled out in detail in the CWB Act and Regulations. As permit book holders who have had our rights diminished, we believe that we are entitled to be granted ‘standing’ to bring this issue before the courts. Justice Russell’s ruling regarding standing is certainly in direct opposition to the first case that the *Friends of the CWB* brought before the Federal Court in 2007—where the Government’s Cabinet Order removing barley from the CWB’s marketing mandate was found to be illegal. Neither the initial court ruling nor the Government’s appeal questioned our rights as permit book holders and producers of barley to bring the case before the court,” said Wells.

“During the recent hearing, the federal government argued that the CWB itself is the only entity that should have automatic standing on this issue. It made this argument with the full knowledge that it would be possible for the Minister to order the CWB to discontinue the legal action. If that were to happen—farmers refused standing to bring their case forward and the CWB ordered not to—any future government orders to the CWB would likely be immune to challenge. *The Friends of the CWB* are prepared to guard against this scenario,” stated Wells.

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