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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GAG ORDER ON CWB ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF HARPER'S AGENDA**

The Harper government's gag order on the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is just one example of the Prime Minister's attempts to undermine democracy in Canada, says Terry Boehm, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

The Harper government imposed the gag order on the CWB through an Order-in-Council in the fall of 2006 to prevent the farmers' marketing agency from explaining the benefits of its single desk sales advantage for wheat and barley. In June, 2007, the Federal Court ruled the gag order was illegal. But in June, 2009, that decision was overturned by the Federal Court of Appeal. The CWB pursued an appeal to the Supreme Court, but on January 21, 2010, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that it would not hear the case.

The Prime Minister went on record in July, 2008, that he would "walk over" any opposition to his plans to eliminate the CWB single desk, noted Boehm. "We've also seen the government interfere in the CWB elections through a variety of means," he added. "Harper's efforts to clamp down on democracy have been going on for several years, but now they're not confined to farmers." Boehm said the decision by Harper to prorogue Parliament has provided a wake-up call to Canadians at large.

"Harper has moved to stifle the work of Parliamentary Committees, publicly maligned and/or fired a number of responsible senior civil servants\* who have dared to question his government's policies, and now has shut down Parliament altogether," Boehm said. "He appears intent on consolidating power at all costs. Canadians must encourage their Parliamentarians to fight for their rights in order to ensure the preservation and health of Canada's constitutional democracy."

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*\*These civil servants include: Peter Tinsley (former Military Policy Complaints Commission Chairman), Paul Kennedy (RCMP Complaints Commission Chairman), Linda Keen (former Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission President), Kevin Page (Parliamentary Budget Officer), Marc Mayrand (Chief Electoral Officer), Jean-Guy Fleury (former Immigration and Refugee Board Chairman).*