

GRAIN GROWERS  
OF CANADA



LES PRODUCTEURS  
DE GRAINS DU CANADA

Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Hon. Gerry Ritz  
Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood  
Parliament Hill  
Ottawa K1A 0A6

Minister Ritz:

### Canadian Wheat Board and Prorogation of Parliament

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**Members:**

Alberta Barley  
Commission

Alberta Grain  
Commission

Alberta Oat Rye &  
Triticale Association

Alberta Pulse Growers

Alberta Winter Wheat  
Producers Commission

Atlantic Grains Council

British Columbia Grain  
Producers Association

Canadian Canola  
Growers Association

Manitoba Corn Growers  
Association

Oat and Barley Council  
of Ontario

Prairie Oat Growers  
Association

Western Barley  
Growers Association

Western Canadian  
Wheat Growers  
Association

The Grain Growers of Canada, representing 80,000 Canadian farmers through our member associations, are concerned about the recent prorogation and possible delays to improving current Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) legislation.

We have invested substantial time and effort to modernize the CWB and more specifically how farmers are elected to the Board of Directors.

Currently many non-farmers receive ballots, and while we appreciate the Government dealing with that on a one time basis during the last round of CWB elections, it is important to amend the CWB Act and regulations to reflect the modern realities of western Canadian agriculture.

We consulted with the CWB and a wide range of stakeholders before coming to general agreement with all parties. One major change we recommend to the CWB Act is having a minimum of 40 metric tonnes of grain sales as a prerequisite to receiving a ballot.

This will help ensure only “real” producers are voting on the future of the CWB.

Therefore, we ask that your office prioritize bringing forward changes to the CWB Act so that they can be passed in a timely manner and implemented prior to the upcoming CWB elections this fall.

Please feel free to contact myself, or our Executive Director Richard Phillips, at any time for further information.

Sincerely,

Doug Robertson  
President  
Grain Growers of Canada