

**GRAIN GROWERS  
OF CANADA**



**LES PRODUCTEURS  
DE GRAINS DU CANADA**

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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

Prairie Oat Growers  
Association

Western Barley  
Growers Association

Western Canadian  
Wheat Growers  
Association

Senator Raynell Andreychuk  
Committee Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
The Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

June 14, 2010

**RE: Passage of Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement**

Dear Senator Andreychuk,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Grain Growers of Canada, who represent over 80,000 successful farmers through its membership organizations who grow wheat, oats, barley, canola, corn, peas, lentils and triticale.

We wish to take this opportunity to urge you to expedite the passage of the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Deal (CCFTA). As we have testified at the House of Commons International Trade Committee, passage of the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement is important for Canadian farmers. Colombia is Canada's seventh largest market for pulses and special crops, with annual exports from Canada averaging over \$53 million and 111,000 tonnes.

Canada is blessed with having wheat, barley and pulses for export. In fact over 90% of Canadian farmers rely on export markets for a living. Colombia has a more temperate climate and their farmers can gain through exporting crops like coffee and tropical fruits that we do not produce in Canada. This is an agreement that benefits farmers in both countries.

There have been over 120 witnesses at the House Standing Committee and fifty speeches in the House, which is far more time and consideration than either of the last two Federal budgets. While there have been concerns over human rights raised, there was a well thought out amendment proposed by MP Scott Brison and accepted by Committee to require both the governments of Canada and Colombia to produce annual reports on human rights in the country as a basis for continuing the agreement.

Arguments have been made by some that this amendment does not go far enough. To a large degree, they are rigidly and ideologically opposed to all trade deals, and it is now time to move on.

We urge you to expedite this bill by moving quickly to clause-by-clause passage in the committee so it can proceed to third reading and royal assent.

Canadian farmers want this bill passed. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this bill or any other issue.

Sincerely,

Doug Robertson,  
President  
Grain Growers of Canada

Cc: Conservative Senators on Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade