

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FRIDAY AUGUST 6, 2010**

**Grain Growers Congratulate Chuck Strahl on Appointment as Minister of Transport**

Earlier today, a federal cabinet shuffle was announced promoting Minister Chuck Strahl from Indian and Aboriginal Affairs to Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. With Minister Strahl's experience dealing with issues important to farmers, the Grain Growers are extremely pleased with his appointment to the increasingly important transportation file.

"The current Level of Service Review for railways is extremely sensitive for the agriculture industry," said Doug Robertson, President of the Grain Growers of Canada. "With Minister Strahl's experience as Agriculture Minister, we are hopeful the message of farmers will resonate strongly."

Chuck Strahl was Minister of Agriculture from 2006 to 2007. During his tenure, Minister Strahl made a genuine effort to reach out to ordinary farmers and commodity associations to help the formation of government policy.

"Farmers are deeply concerned about the poor service provided by the railways for shippers. We want clear, effective commercial and regulatory changes to ensure against abuse of railway market power," said Robertson. "We are hopeful that through the review process the Minister will keep his ear to the ground and stand up for the needs of producers."

An interim report from the Level of Service Review is due in October. Farmers will be paying close attention to the preliminary recommendations of the committee to ensure that substantial reforms are made.

The Grain Growers of Canada represent over 80,000 successful farmers through its membership organizations who grow wheat, oats, barley, canola, corn, peas, lentils and triticale.

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