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For Immediate Release:

Grain Growers encourage Government to continue moving forward on changes to the CWB

(Thursday, December 8, 2011, Ottawa, ON) – Justice Douglas Campbell’s recent ruling should not have any affect on Parliament passing the *Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act*, currently before the Senate. “We respect that Justice Campbell feels the Government did not consult in a manner consistent with his interpretation of the Act,” says Stephen Vandervalk, President of the Grain Growers of Canada. “However, more significant is the fact that he concurs that Government has the authority to proceed with ending the monopoly.”

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“We still fully expect Parliament to pass this legislation before Christmas,” says Vandervalk. “The federal government needs to press forward, because progressive farmers, grain elevators, malting companies, flour mills, grain companies and the Wheat Board are well down the road in making plans for the transition to the new market. It would be very disruptive for everyone to try and wind the clock back now.”

Western agri-industry is already gearing up for long awaited changes to the CWB – a pasta plant being built in Saskatchewan and malt barley storage expansion in Alberta are two recent examples.

“Industry and farmers, including the Canadian Wheat Board’s own staff, are now pulling together business plans in anticipation of these coming changes,” says Richard Phillips, Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada. “We need to remember the new law includes a strong voluntary CWB as a marketing option.”

“We have spoken to many people at the Board who are looking forward to the future, eagerly anticipating working in the new environment,” explains Phillips. “Changes to the Board will really mean a new invigorated organization.”

"Food companies want to lock in flour prices for fall, which means millers need to lock in wheat prices and as farmers we want to lock in our profits now as well", says Vandervalk. "It's critical for the legislation to proceed so we can start doing business as soon as possible."

Representing tens of thousands of successful wheat, durum, barley, canola, oat, corn, pea, lentil, rye and triticale farmers, the Grain Growers of Canada is well known as the national voice of Canadian grain farmers. Please visit www.ggc-pgc.ca.

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