

GRAIN GROWERS
OF CANADA



LES PRODUCTEURS
DE GRAINS DU CANADA

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For Immediate Release: STATEMENT

Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act now law Wheat and Barley Marketing Freedom Day is here!

(Friday, December 16, 2011, Balgonie, SK) – From the Strudwick Farm in Balgonie, SK, Stephen Vandervalk, President of the Grain Growers of Canada made the following statement:

“With the Governor General signing this bill into law today, we are entering a new wheat and barley production era.

“Wheat and barley freedom day has finally arrived!

“And we need to especially thank Minister Gerry Ritz and the Federal Government, for their leadership in getting the job done!

“These changes have been a long time coming and it has been a long haul for most of us here today. In my own family, three generations have worked towards this day.

“Our history makes us strong. But today’s agriculture industry has come a long way. Thanks to progress in technology and science, I farm and market by crops differently than my grandfather did in the past.

“I use a GPS on my tractor to save on input costs related to fertilizer and seed and to also help me farm in a more environmentally sustainable way.

“And from the seat of my tractor, I already use my blackberry to lock in prices for canola, peas, lentils, oats and flax.

“So using today’s technology to market my wheat makes sense to me. With this bill becoming law today, I will now be able to use my blackberry to choose where I sell my first load of wheat!

“Changes to the new voluntary Canadian Wheat Board will mean a new invigorated organization.

“So, I call on all farmers today, regardless of what side they were on, to set aside past differences, and work together for the future. Farmers, grain elevators, malting companies, flour mills, grain companies and consumers are all counting on us to work together.

GGC Members:

Atlantic Grains Council

Alberta Barley Commission

Alberta Oat Rye &
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Alberta Pulse Growers

Alberta Winter Wheat
Producers Commission

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 Assoc.

“Looking ahead, we still have a lot of work to do. We need to set up market development commissions, a wheat council of Canada -similar to other successful industries like pulse and canola, and iron out research issues.

“Industry and farmers, including the Canadian Wheat Board’s own staff, can now forge ahead with their business plans. Road blocks to value added investment are gone. Western agri-industry has already been gearing up with a pasta plant in Saskatchewan and malt barley storage expansion in Alberta. These are just two examples. We look forward to more exciting developments in the coming months!

“Western farmers will now have the chance to branch into different kinds of wheat specialty markets. We can all focus on the highest quality product for the highest return, rather than limiting ourselves to average prices.

“As a young farmer, I am personally looking forward to the freedom to choose, where I sell my first load of wheat.

“A new day has dawned for western Canadian farmers!”

Stephen Vandervalk farms with his brother and father near Fort MacLeod, Alberta.

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 .

For more information:

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