



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

A strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western Canada

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For immediate Release -- News Release

CWB Board of Directors continue to break the law and spend producers' monies

February 1, 2007, Airdrie, AB.- Some of the farmer elected directors continue to do whatever they can to discredit their own Minister, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, The Canadian government, along with Minister Strahl, has the right to enforce the directors of the Canadian Wheat Board to follow the CWB Act:

Section 18(1) the Governor in Council may, by order, direct the Corporation with respect to the manner, in which any of its operations, powers and duties under this Act shall be conducted, exercised or performed.

"By legally challenging the Government over the appointment and compensation of interim CEO and President Greg Arason, these directors have split the board and continue to blatantly spend producer pooled monies" says Jeff Nielsen, President of the Western Barley Growers Association. As for the interim CEO/President Arason the CWB Act states:

Section 3.09 (3)

Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, the Governor in Council may appoint a transitional president and fix the remuneration to be paid to him or her.

For six weeks the board ignored their own Act in refusing to pay and recognize Mr. Arason. "Apparently some of the directors for the CWB believe they can interpret the Act in a manner that suits their needs best, and ignore the costs they are incurring to producer pool accounts and ultimately the returns to individual producers" continues Nielsen. "I call upon Chairman Ken Ritter to uphold his fiduciary duties, and do what is needed under law, and focus the board on its primary objective as stated in the Act, that being to sell all grains offered to it, and return proceeds less administration back to producers."

"As a sound businessman, producer and a lawyer himself, Mr. Ritter knows that continuing to challenge Canadian law and spending of producer monies is wrong, and these actions are damaging the CWB's reputation, not just here at home but with our international customers as well" says Tom Hewson, WBGA Vice President.

Nielsen goes on to say, "The CWB must follow the laws and orders put forward to it. If not, then those directors that continue to challenge the government must face the fact that they are breaking the law. The former Liberal government put 13 farmers in jail for trying to improve their farm gate returns. Perhaps it is time to jail some of the CWB directors for breaking the CWB Act"

WBGA calls upon producers to call their CWB director and ask him to stop the madness and focus their efforts on the mandate stated in the Act. We also ask all barley producers to make their voice heard in the upcoming barley plebiscite. For more information go to www.barleyvote.ca

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