



The Canadian Wheat Board  
La Commission canadienne du blé



April 24, 2006

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and  
Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Sir John Carling Building 930 Carling Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

**DELIVERED**

Dear Minister;

May we say at the outset that the Canadian Wheat Board, created as it is by a statute of Canada to serve the interests of Western Canadian farmers, will at all times co-operate with the government of Canada within the powers granted to it by its enabling legislation.

Contrary to the assertion contained in your letter of April 11, 2006, the CWB is not an agency of the Government. Its enabling statute expressly provides in section 4(2) that it is not an agent of Her Majesty and that it is not a Crown corporation. Rather, the CWB is a body corporate, which acts through its board of directors. The *Canadian Wheat Board Act* also makes it clear that all directors have the same duties and obligations regardless of how they have come to be on the board, be it by election or by federal appointment.

The CWB can only act in accordance with the *Act* and the regulations passed thereunder by the Governor in Council. The CWB is not able to implement the policy of any particular political party – Conservative, Liberal or otherwise. Specifically, it is not able to implement what you describe as the Conservative government's expressed intent to allow for voluntary participation in the Canadian Wheat Board. If this is indeed the new policy, then for the CWB to act on it, that policy would have to be implemented by legislative change, the process for which is also addressed in the *Act*.

With respect to the CWB's activities related to the ongoing WTO negotiations to which you make reference, let us assure you that those activities have solely been directed toward representing the interests of Western Canadian farmers on an issue that is of great significance to them and to their businesses. Indeed it is one of several issues upon which farmers have been pressing the CWB to speak out on their behalf. We should also stress that the CWB initiated these activities well before the Conservative government came to power -- there neither was then, nor is now, any politically partisan intent behind them.

The directors and management of the CWB are looking forward to working with you and your staff to ensure that farmers continue to benefit from the additional value that the CWB brings to them.

Yours very truly,

Adrian C. Measner  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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JMcl

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Chair, CWB Board of Directors

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