

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food
and Minister for the
Canadian Wheat Board



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire
et ministre de la
Commission canadienne du blé

Quote: 628256

Mr. Ken Ritter
Chair
Board of Directors
The Canadian Wheat Board
423 Main Street
PO Box 816, Station Main
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2P5

Dear Mr. Ritter:

I have received your letter of November 27, 2006, regarding the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) Direction Order SOR/2006-247.

It is unfortunate that the CWB has not yet removed from its website the document entitled "CWB Response to Minister Strahl's Task Force Examining Implementation of Marketing Choice November 6, 2006." As I indicated to you in my November 17 letter, using CWB resources to prepare this document, which defends and argues for the status quo, and posting it on the website contravenes the Direction Order. This Order clearly directs that the CWB shall not spend any money, directly or indirectly, advocating the retention of its monopoly powers. This covers all forms of spending, including salaries and non-pay operating expenditures. Accordingly, please instruct CWB staff to immediately remove the document from the website.

You claim that the Direction Order hinders the CWB's ability to discharge its statutory mandate. The mandate of the CWB is to market grain in an orderly manner, not to advocate that its statutory powers should not be changed. The Direction Order does not prevent the CWB from spending funds to carry out its mandate under the *Canadian Wheat Board Act*.

Finally, you have asked for the suspension of the Direction Order during the upcoming plebiscite on barley. Cabinet issued the Direction Order because it is important that the CWB, a shared-governance corporation granted extraordinary powers pursuant to federal legislation, carry out its operations and duties in a manner that does not contradict or undermine government policy objectives. Please note that the Direction Order does not interfere with the rights of the Directors and staff of the CWB to speak publicly in their own names about their individual positions on this matter, without financial support from the CWB.

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Mr. Ken Ritter

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In light of the foregoing, I am not prepared to recommend to Cabinet that it suspend the application of the Direction Order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chuck Strahl". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Chuck Strahl