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A Notary Public in and for the Province of Manitoba



Ottawa threatens to fire wheat board CEO

By Larry Kusch and Paul Samyn The Harper government has told Canadian Wheat Board president and CEO Adrian Measner that he will be fired unless he assures Ottawa he will support marketing choice for wheat and barley farmers.

Deanna Allen, a wheat board vice president, said Measner, who has been with the CWB since 1974, received a fax from Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl on Wednesday, indicating that he may be terminated.

Strahl wrote Measner that he had until Dec. 14 to "provide any comments for consideration by me and the Governor-in Council."

Allen said the wording of the letter was nearly identical to a letter sent to former Saskatchewan CWB director Ross Keith recently before he was fired.

"We believe that this is simply pro forma and that following his response by the deadline of the 14th that it will be a matter of hours or days when he will receive notice that he will be terminated."

However, a government spokesman said Thursday the firing is not a done deal, indicating that Measner could save his job if he were to change his position on the need to maintain the wheat board's sales monopoly.

"We're not going to speculate on what he's going to say," the official said, referring to Measner. "We have given him ample opportunity to demonstrate support for marketing choice. We want our appointees to actively support that position."

Measner has been a strong opponent of the government's goal of ending the wheat board's monopoly over wheat and barley sales.

Allen said that Measner was to address wheat board staff Thursday afternoon, adding that he would not be making a public statement that day.

"He's fairly upset and wants to concentrate on talking to staff first," she said.

Allen said that in a conversation with a member of Strahl's staff, she was told that Measner had effectively been given two weeks' notice.

The official said the government already had a short list of candidates to replace Measner, one of five government appointees on the CWB's 15-member board of directors.

Elections by mail are now proceeding in five of 10 wheat board districts. Farmers must postmark their ballots by Friday to have them count.

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Board president may be fired The Leader-Post (Regina, Saskatchewan) December 1, 2006 Friday

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December 1, 2006 Friday Final Edition

SECTION: BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE; Pg. B4

LENGTH: 468 words

HEADLINE: Board president may be fired

BYLINE: Larry Kusch and Paul Samyn, Winnipeg Free Press

DATELINE: WINNIPEG

BODY:

WINNIPEG -- Ottawa has served notice that it will sack a **Canadian Wheat Board** executive who once called the Harper government's tactics "un-Canadian."

Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl informed CWB president and CEO Adrian Measner by letter that he was contemplating a recommendation to cabinet that his appointment be "terminated."

Strahl gave Measner until Dec. 14 to respond in writing.

While a Strahl spokesman stressed Thursday that Measner had not been fired, the wheat board was already mourning the loss of the 32-year CWB veteran on Thursday.

"The board is treating this as the first step in the eventual removal of the president and CEO," said Deanna Allen, a wheat board vice-president, noting that the letter Measner received Wednesday is virtually identical to one Strahl wrote earlier this fall to a board appointee from Regina who was replaced.

Ken Ritter, a Saskatchewan farmer who chairs the CWB's board of directors, said Measner's removal would be a blow to the grain seller, which markets Prairie wheat and barley to more than 70 countries.

"He's highly respected in the whole grain industry. He's highly respected by the staff and has the board of directors' support," Ritter said.

"And I think that the loss of an individual who has a strong reputation and is known for integrity is certainly lamentable."

Conrad Bellehumeur, Strahl's director of communications, said Measner has not been fired.

Instead, Beliehumeur said that Measner is being given the opportunity to make clear whether he backs the government's plan to make good on the Tory promise to move to marketing choice.

"The minister wants to be confident that (the government's) appointees support its position," he said.

But Allen said a member of Strahl's staff told her that the government already had a short list of candidates to replace Measner.

She said another Strahl staffer told a wheat board employee that "we've given your boss two weeks' notice."



Back us or else, feds tell CWB Edmonton Journal (Alberta) December 1, 2006 Friday

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Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

December 1, 2006 Friday Final Edition

SECTION: BUSINESS; Pg. D1

LENGTH: 353 words

HEADLINE: Back us or else, feds tell CWB

BYLINE: Winnipeg Free Press

DATELINE: WINNIPEG

BODY:

WINNIPEG - The Harper government has told **Canadian Wheat Board** president and chief executive officer Adrian Measner that he will be fired unless he assures Ottawa he will support marketing choice for wheat and barley farmers.

Wheat board vice-president Deanna Allen said Measner, who has been with the CWB since 1974, received a fax from Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl on Wednesday, indicating that he may be terminated. Strahl wrote Measner that he had until Dec. 14 to "provide any comments for consideration by me and the governor-in-council."

Allen said the wording of the letter was nearly identical to a letter sent to fired Saskatchewan CWB director Ross Keith recently. "We believe that this is simply pro forma and that following his response by the deadline of the 14th that it will be a matter of hours or days when he will receive notice that he will be terminated," she said.

However, a government spokesman said Thursday the firing is not a done deal, indicating that Measner could save his job if he were to change his position on the need to maintain the wheat board's sales monopoly.

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Allen said that Measner would not be making a statement Thursday.

"He's fairly upset and wants to concentrate on talking to staff first."

The CWB board of directors will hold a conference call this morning to discuss the matter.

Ritter said as far as he knows, no board member received prior notice from Strahl or his office of the letter to Measner.

He said he tried to reach the minister or his officials Thursday, but was unable to get through.

A wheat board employee, who asked not to be named, said staff at the board's Winnipeg headquarters were "shocked" after learning from Measner Thursday afternoon that his days at the board were numbered.

"There was a general silence, some of the staff members were in tears," the employee said.

The wheat board has a monopoly over the export of Prairie wheat and barley as well as the sale of those crops domestically for human consumption.

GRAPHIC:

Photo: Measner