

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

MAY 18 2006

Quote: 437871

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

Dear Mr. Ritter: Ken,

Thank you for meeting with me in Ottawa on April 27, 2006. I appreciated your perspective regarding the effects of the World Trade Organization Framework Agreement on the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) operations.

With regard to your paper, *Harvesting Opportunity*, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada agrees that farmers require a solution that ensures the long-term viability of western Canadian agriculture. However, your proposals run directly counter to the stated policy of the Government. I would have preferred to have seen an indication that the CWB is willing to work with the Government in a new, open market, but the section on single-desk selling in your proposal clearly demonstrates that the CWB has not considered the benefits that greater marketing freedom would provide for farmers.

I would also note that the proposals contained in *Harvesting Opportunity* lie far beyond the Board's legislative mandate. Given that the Board feels comfortable in proposing actions that fall outside the scope of its legal jurisdiction, it would also be appropriate to field a genuine proposal that accords with governmental policy. You will remember that I requested this at our recent meeting.

Until such time as your options paper reflects such a balance, I would request that you do not proceed with consultations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Strahl".

Chuck Strahl

Canada