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Breaking News – The Winnipeg Free Press
Report backs ending CWB monopoly

By Larry Kusch

A federal task force has concluded that a new Canadian Wheat Board, owned by farmers, could thrive without retaining monopoly powers, the government announced Monday.

- [Click here](#) to view a copy of the task force report.

The task force recommends a four-stage transition from the wheat board that farmers know today to a new body to which grain deliveries are voluntary.

The four stages include: preparing for change, forming the new CWB, launching the transformed CWB with transition measures and post-transition.

Under the plan, marketing choice for barley would begin in February 2008; for wheat it would begin in July 2008.

Full transition to a new marketing system would not be complete until July 2013.

The wheat board is currently the sole marketer of Prairie wheat and barley that is exported or used domestically for human consumption.

“Canada’s new government thanks the members of the task force for putting together such a complete report on how to implement marketing choice so that it benefits all grain farmers in Western Canada,” Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl said in the news release.

“We will examine its recommendations over the weeks and months ahead, and during that time I look forward to receiving the views of farmers and stakeholder groups.”

He said he will be looking forward to what western Canadian farmers have to say about the ideas put forward by the task force.

