

An Open Letter Protesting Federal Government Intervention in the CWB Director Elections.

To the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) Election Coordinator,
Mr. Peter Eckersley
Myers, Norris Penny
Brandon, Manitoba
Via: facsimile

Dear Mr Eckersley:

Sections 24 through to 28 of the CWB Director Elections Regulations deal with election spending and the involvement of third parties supporting a candidate or a group of candidates. It is our understanding that the purpose and intent of this section is to prevent vested interests with ample financial resources from buying the election with overwhelming advertising and other methods. This section also requires third party interveners to register with your office and prevents them from spending more than \$10,000.00 in all electoral districts. The spending limit for each individual candidate is \$15,000.00.

As in past elections the contest in each district has candidates and groups of candidates with varying views. However in the current election, unlike previous elections, the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood Canada (AAFC), the Honourable Chuck Strahl is actively intervening in the election to promote the position of candidates who support the policy goals of the current Minister's political party. The Minister is also utilizing the resources of AAFC in this campaign. To this end he has made public speeches, issued op-ed articles through AAFC, incurred travel expenses and other costs to further his political support of candidates he favours. We believe that these activities constitute intervention by a third party as defined by Sections 24 through 28 of the Regulations and that these activities must be governed by those regulations.

In compliance with the government regulations regarding the conduct of this election, has Minister Strahl, registered with your office as a third party intervener and will he be expected to submit a record of the expenditures of his activities and those of AAFC in support of a group of candidates?

One of the oldest and most well established principles in law is that all, including Ministers of the Crown, are equal before the law and none should be exempt or above the law. As candidates who strongly believe in a civil society founded on the rule of law and its basis in fair play, we believe the CWB election regulations apply to Minister Chuck Strahl and the use of the resources of AAFC, just as they would to any other group or individual. We respectfully request that you enforce the regulations and require that Minister Chuck Strahl comply with the regulations governing this election and that appropriate penalties be applied if there have been any violations of the purpose, spirit, and intent of the CWB Act and the Election Regulations.

Sincerely:

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