Pro-CWB Campaign, News Release

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A few simple questions for the Strahl Horner tag team at their Nov. 15 Edmonton news conference

(**DeBolt and Benalto Ab.**) "We have a few simple questions for the Strahl – Horner tag team that seem so bent on destroying farmer market power in the west" - Art Macklin of DeBolt, Alberta and Ken Larsen of Benalto, Alberta.

1. Mr. Strahl: The CWB Act states that producers will elect 10 of the CWB directors and it defines a producer as anyone who grew one of the six major grains or has a right to a crop share. Why did you eliminate 16,577 eligible voters (almost 40%) from the list of those who would automatically receive a ballot and make it difficult for them to receive a ballot? The Wheat Board discussed the election issue with you at the very first meeting back in February. Why did you wait until the middle of the election to make a change in the rules? Will you be covering the costs that your disruption of the election has caused or do you expect the farmers to have to pay for that? Why is the Federal government interfering with and disrupting the Canadian Wheat Board elections in the first place??

2. Mr. Strahl, you fired CWB Director Ross Keith and you have been appointing directors who support the government's policy of eliminating the single desk selling power of the CWB. Do you not recognize this as blatant partisan patronage appointments similar to what you condemned in the last government?

3. Mr. Horner: In a speech in Winnipeg on Nov.3rd, Mr, Strahl said that oat production has increased since it has been removed from CWB marketing. Could you verify the numbers for Alberta because the information from Statistics Canada in the Legislative Library shows oat harvested production in Alberta going from 688,000 hectares in 1989 and decreasing steadily to 255,000 hectares in 2006.

4. Under the CWB Act Mr. Strahl can demand any information from the CWB that he wants to see. Has Mr. Strahl ever bothered to look at the CWB sales record to see if the CWB actually does achieve premiums on behalf of farmers?

5. Does Mr. Horner agree with Mr. Strahl's task force that a dual market, to use their own words "is not possible"

6. Mr. Strahl, In a letter to the opposition MLAs Mr.Horner documents that the government of Alberta has spent $1,077,000 of Alberta taxpayers money in the last three years in its campaign to advocate the elimination of the CWB's monopoly powers and they have budgeted $184,000.00 for this year. You are spending Canadian taxpayers money to do the same but you have used the law to restrict the democratically elected CWB Board from using CWB money to advocate retention of the monopoly powers. Do you view this as fair and open discussion on a public policy issue?

7. Mr. Strahl: why is the Harper Government withholding increased initial payments to the west's farmers in spite of the CWB demanding that they be increased?

8: Mr. Strahl, Section 4 (2) of the CWB Act states "The Corporation is not an agent of Her Majesty and is not a Crown Corporation within the meaning of the Financial Administration Act" It has 10 democratically elected farmers on the board and farmers pay 100% of the CWB expenses. Why do you expect them to rubber stamp the government's policy and what democratic and moral right do you have to be restricting CWB communication with producers, disrupting their election and stacking the Board with government puppets?

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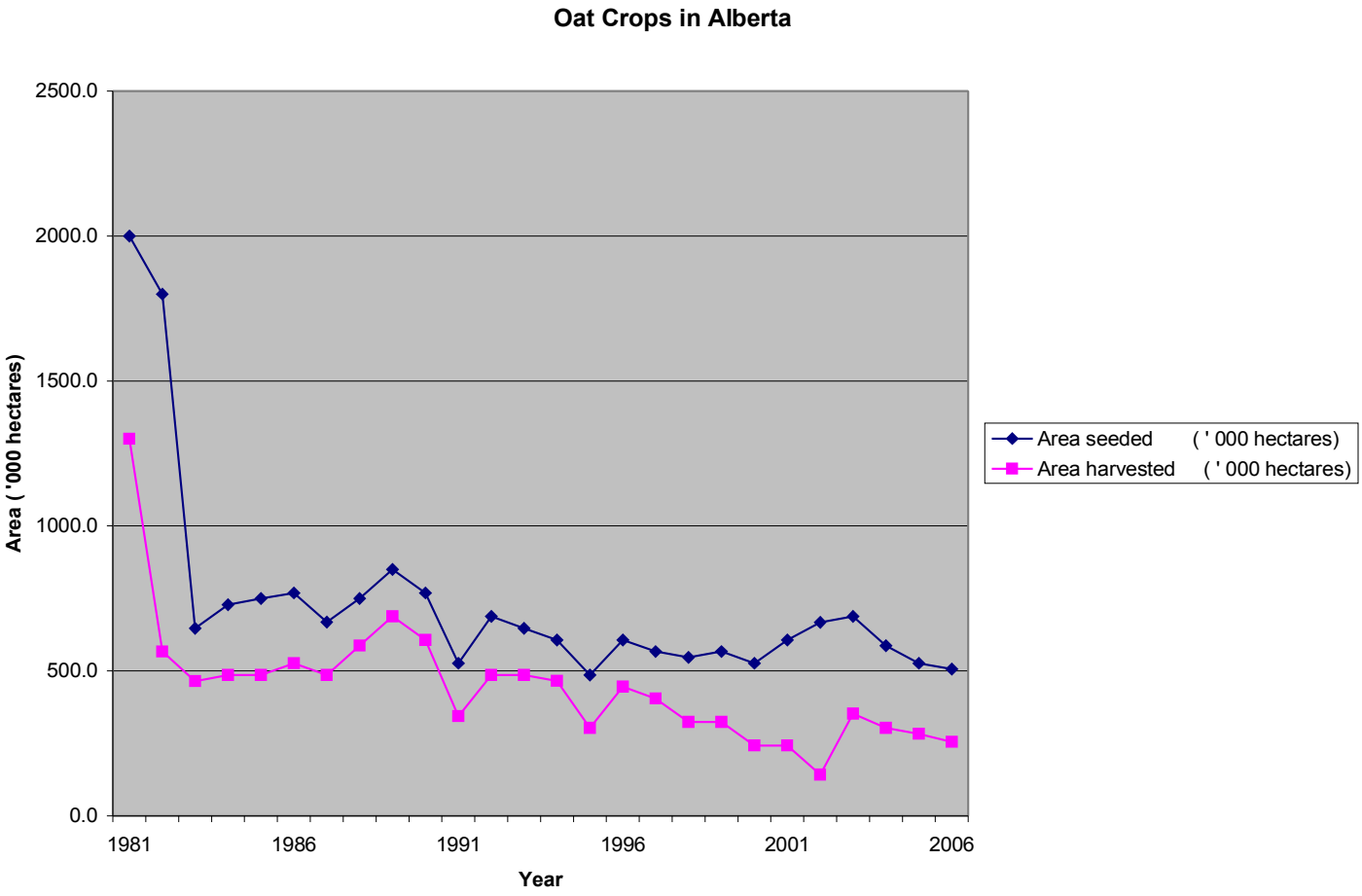
Oat Crops in Alberta
2500.0
2000.0
1500.0
1000.0
500.0
0.0
Area ('000 hectares)
1981
1986
1991
1996
2001
2006
Year
Area seeded (' 000 hectares)
Area harvested (' 000 hectares)