

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations

in Advance of the 2019 Budget By:

Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

That the federal government rescind the carbon tax.

Recommendation 2:

That the federal government prioritize the signing of the CPTPP.

Recommendation 3:

That the federal government review grain grading, specifically wheat in cross border movement.

Recommendation 4:

That the federal government review the Tax Act.

Honourable Wayne Easter, PC, MP
Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Finance,

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is a voluntary farm advocacy organization, which represents millions of acres of farmland and is dedicated to developing policy solutions that strengthen the profitability and sustainability of farming and the agricultural industry as a whole.

Our origins date back to December 1969, when a concerned group of producers and industry representatives met to discuss how they could create an effective farm organization to promote positive, market-oriented policy solutions. On April 3, 1970, a charter was granted to the Palliser Wheat Growers Association, today known as the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

Agriculture is at a cross roads in global trade discussions. Open markets, new markets, subsidies, supply management and free trade are all major issues that both the federal government and WCWGA are dealing with and cannot be looked at in either isolation or without a global perspective. Budget 2017 set an ambitious goal of growing Canada's agri-food exports from \$55 to \$75 billion annually by 2025. Without a full and wholesome discussion around these issues, we cannot be competitive and reach these targets.

With this context in mind, please find following our 2019 federal budget consultation submission.

Carbon Tax elimination:

The imposition of a carbon tax upon Canadians, especially wheat growers, has major detrimental impacts. The costs that are incurred by our growers make us less competitive in the global market place. Furthermore, these costs impact our bottom line, impacting the middle-income farmers and suppliers that form the backbone of the prairie economy.

CPTPP:

That the federal government prioritize the immediate signing of the CPTPP. The federal government has made substantial financial commitments to agriculture with the mandate of expanding the agriculture portion of Canada's GDP. WCWGA are well able to meet our part of this growth, but only if we have new markets to export to. WCWGA members can be highly competitive in the global market place, provided we have ongoing and expanded access.

Grain Grading:

Currently Canadian wheat being transported across the US border is graded appropriately. Unfortunately, all US wheat coming across the Canadian border is designated as feed grade. Without a recognition of correct grain grading for US wheat, Canadian farmers are at risk of losing their grading in the US and being placed in an uncompetitive position.

Tax System Review:

Over a number of years, there have been multiple adjustments to the Tax Act. Unfortunately, the long-term impacts of these changes have often resulted in tax policy that is counterproductive to the competitive nature of the business community. The WCWGA calls for a comprehensive review of the Tax Act with a specific intent to increase market competitiveness and reduce government intervention and subsidies.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Standing Committee's work towards the 2019 federal budget. We would ask to be included on your list of witnesses to discuss these matters in greater detail.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Levi Wood". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Levi Wood
President