



NEWS RELEASE

"The Voice of Manitoba Farmers"
203-1700 Ellice Ave. Winnipeg MB. R3H 0B1
tel: 204.697.1140 fax: 204.697.1109
kap@kap.mb.ca www.kap.mb.ca

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Bill C-27: The Positives

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is optimistic about the introduction of *Bill C-27, the Canadian Wheat Board Payments and Election Reform Act*, which focuses on the payment approval process and a change to voter eligibility.

The legislation would make the payment approval process shorter by removing approval by the Treasury Board and the Governor General. The entire process now takes six to eight weeks, but if the legislation is passed, payments could flow to farmers within a shorter period of time.

"We strongly endorse the change to speed up payments," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "We've complained in the past about how long it can take to get payments approved by the government, and streamlining the process will help those funds arrive sooner."

Under the legislation, eligible voters in CWB director elections must have produced at least 40 tonnes of any of the seven major grains in the two crop years leading up to an election or within the election year.

"We don't think there are too many farmers out there that don't produce 40 tonnes of one of the seven major commodities," said Wishart. "Wheat is often part of crop rotations and whether farmers produce it in certain years or not, they should still have a say in the elections."

KAP believes this change to voter eligibility and the change to the payment approval process are positive steps for producers.

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For more information, please contact:

Ian Wishart, KAP President. Cell: (204) 856-6964.

Kristen Lucyshyn, KAP Communications. Office: (204) 697-1140.

Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba's largest general farm policy organization, representing over 7,000 farm families and 22 commodity groups throughout the province. Our strength is our democratic structure, and our mission is to represent and promote the interests of the province's farm families.