



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

December 8, 2011

Federal Court Ruling on Bill C-18

Winnipeg – Federal Court Judge Douglas Campbell ruled yesterday that when the government introduced Bill C-18, it was in violation of section 47.1 of the Canadian Wheat Board Act. The federal government has indicated that it intends to appeal Justice Campbell’s ruling and will continue to push forward with the passage of Bill C-18.

Members of Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) have been looking for marketing certainty throughout this transition process. Yesterday’s developments and ongoing legal action may delay that certainty.

“Farmers are already planning for the next growing season, and opportunities for pricing and managing their risk for the 2012 crop have been missed and continue to be delayed” said Doug Chorney, KAP President.

Western Canada has a reputation for producing high quality varieties of wheat and barley that are in demand by processors. Uncertainty about access to supply, and ongoing transportation problems caused by poor rail freight service has farmers worried that buyers may simply look elsewhere for a secure and consistent supply of grain.

“During presentations to the Working Group on Marketing Freedom in August, we highlighted our members’ concerns about the limited timelines that were being set. We are now starting to see that as challenges arise, farmers’ ability to manage their operations effectively is being placed at risk” said Chorney. “From the onset of this transition process, KAP has advocated for meaningful consultation with farmers and farm groups. Additional stakeholder engagement may have helped reduce apprehension throughout this process.”

KAP continues to be committed to working for all prairie grain farmers, regardless of what side of this political debate they are on. KAP has been involved in this process to help ensure farmers do not get caught up in a political and legal quandary. Financial losses due to missed marketing opportunities are not acceptable and we expect that there will be accountability for any negative impacts on farm income.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Doug Chorney, KAP President. Cell: (204) 785-3626.
Yvonne Rideout, KAP General Manager. 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.