



Backgrounder

March 2007

PLEBISCITE RESULTS

The plebiscite on barley was designed as a broadly based consultation with farmers, giving them the opportunity to express their opinions on how they would like to market barley in the future.

Farmers were asked to select one of the following three options on the ballot.

- 1). The Canadian Wheat Board should retain the single desk for the marketing of barley into domestic human consumption and export markets.
- 2). I would like the option to market my barley to the Canadian Wheat Board or any other domestic or foreign buyer.
- 3). The Canadian Wheat Board should not have a role in the marketing of barley.

The results, as attested by the international professional services firm KPMG:

Barley Plebiscite Results					
	MB	SK	AB	BC	Overall
Total votes cast	3,703	15,327	9,881	156	29,067
Percent of votes					
Retain single desk	50.6	45.1	21.4	42.3	37.8
Prefer option to market to CWB or other buyer of my choice	34.6	42.1	63.4	49.4	48.4
CWB should have no role in marketing barley	14.8	12.8	15.2	8.3	13.8

The Government of Canada will now begin work on the necessary amendments to the Canadian Wheat Board regulations to remove barley from the CWB's single desk authority.

It is the Government's intention that marketing choice for Western Canada's barley growers will be a reality by August 1, 2007.