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Marketing choice cultivates free enterprise

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) supports the federal government's legislation to amend the *Canadian Wheat Board Act* because it recognizes the fundamental right of Western Canadian farmers to sell their own wheat and barley.

Ending the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) monopoly is a positive move, says ACC President and CEO Ken Kobly, who notes an open market for Prairie wheat and barley will attract investment, encourage innovation, generate value-added jobs, and offer opportunities for growth.

"As agriculture is business, these businesses will be able to sell their product to whomever they wish, the same as any other business in Canada," said Kobly.

Western Canadian farmers have for years been asking the federal government to let them opt out of the CWB's one-desk marketing system because they are independent business people who should have the freedom to sell their own produce if they prefer to do so.

Creating a dual marketing system will give producers more options for doing business in the global marketplace, allowing them to participate in the kind of open market that has worked well for Canada's canola industry.

Furthermore, the legislative changes to the *Canadian Wheat Board Act* will put Western Canadian farmers on an equal footing with producers in other parts of Canada who have long had the ability to market their own grain crops.

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce is a federation of 124 Chambers of Commerce in Alberta representing over 23,000 businesses.

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