



January 12, 2004

The Hon. Reg Alcock  
President, Treasury Board  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Alcock:

The Red Deer Chamber of Commerce is strongly in favour of introducing a marketing option for Western Canadian wheat and barley growers. We respectfully provide the attached letter as background on our position.

The Chamber does not want to see an end to the CWB. We want the Board to be one of the marketing and risk management options for farmers. However, farmers do require additional flexibility in order to take advantage of opportunities like farmer-owned value added processing plants, and niche markets for specialty crops, such as organic grains.

We have seen that value added processing in eastern Canada and for crops outside of the CWB's mandate exceed the level of processing for Western Canadian wheat and barley. This is an indication of the need to re-examine the current marketing system.

Increases in value added processing, especially farmer owned value added processing, not only benefits farmers by increasing profits, they will add badly needed jobs to our rural communities. Continued development along this front should be a key policy objective of the Government of Canada and we encourage you to make the changes that are necessary to allow this development to occur.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Yours truly,

RED DEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Glenn Simon  
President, 2003-04

c.c. Bob Mills, MP  
Hon. Victor Doerksen, MLA – Red Deer South  
Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA – Red Deer North  
Luke Ouellette, MLA, Innisfail Sylvan Lake  
Alberta Chambers of Commerce  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce