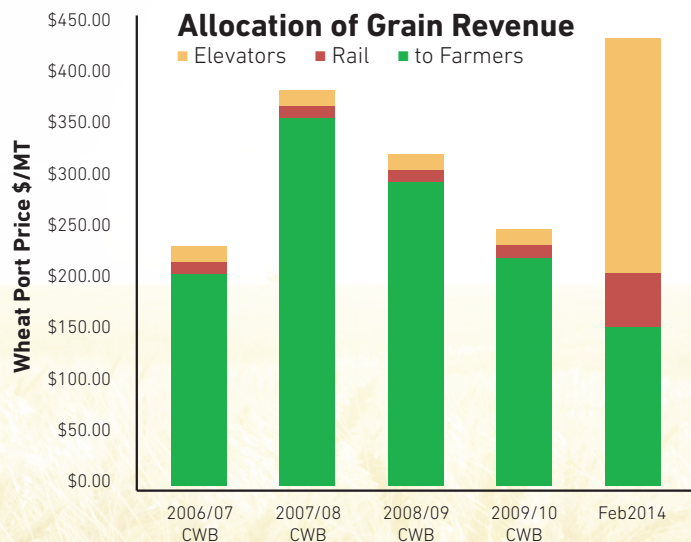


THE GREAT CANADIAN GRAIN ROBBERY

Western Canadian Farmers are Losing Billions Without the Farmer-Owned and Controlled Single-Desk CWB

Western grain producers lost an estimated \$3.1 billion in 2013/14 and losses for 2014/15 are projected to exceed \$2 billion because of inefficiencies in grain handling, transportation, and marketing caused by eliminating the CWB. (Richard Gray, Agriculture Economist, University of Saskatchewan)

Data from the CWB's independently audited statements shows that farmers on the prairies received about 90% of the Vancouver price with the CWB system. Now they get only 41% of the Vancouver price with the grain companies taking the rest.



Prairie farmers' share of the world price has dropped since the Harper government seized the farmer-owned CWB and then gave it to Saudi Arabia and Bunge.

OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE LOSING MILLIONS

A Manitoba Example

In 2013, farmers in the Swan River Valley grew an 11 million bushel bumper crop of wheat. Using the loss of \$4.69 per bushel the total loss of revenue to the Swan River area is over \$50 million for the 2013-2014 crop year.

Blending, Protein Premiums, Fusarium Programs

Since the elimination of the CWB, blending of the entire crop no longer benefits farmers. Now blending revenues go to the grain companies. There is no longer a fusarium program to market fusarium infected wheat. Protein premiums from the grain companies to farmers have been little to none.

Here is what Andrew Dennis, Friends of the CWB, said about protein premiums farmers used to get, "In the 2010/11 crop year, for example, the CWB premium for 15.5% protein CRSW #1 was \$3.46/ bushel extra. This is \$173 more per acre for just protein on a 50 bushel per acre crop."

The Vancouver Situation

Now when a ship docks in Vancouver to load wheat it sometimes has to go back to anchor six times or more before fully loaded. Without the CWB single-desk, the system operated by the grain companies is costly, inefficient, and causes poor railway performance.

Until Ottawa killed it in 2011, the CWB received extra money for the timely loading of wheat on ocean going vessels and farmers got that money. Now farmers have to pay for the grain companies' failure to fill the ships on time.

The Thunder Bay Situation

What is happening at Thunder Bay? Not much. When the CWB sold our grain Thunder Bay was filled over the winter so it was ready to go in the spring. Now workers are idle and it sits empty. The CWB moved grain by rail to the St. Lawrence terminals in winter. This eastern rail movement no longer happens and grain companies have no desire to carry the cost of storing grain. All that grain must now move during warm weather and we will likely see yet another year of problems with grain transportation.

Churchill

The port of Churchill has significant advantages to Manitoba farmers (a \$26.00 per tonne freight advantage) and since eliminating the CWB the federal Government has put in place a \$10.00 per tonne subsidy for grain shipped through Churchill. This subsidy ends in 2016, so what happens to Churchill after that?

Did you know that until the Conservatives killed the Canadian Wheat Board in 2012 almost all the bread, pasta, and beer consumed in Canada was made with grain grown on the prairies? The farmer-controlled CWB leveled the playing field for local processors. Now processors buy the cheapest grain they can and import it by the ship load.

Crippling Our Ability To Produce

The Great Canadian Research Burning

The Conservatives have destroyed the following Agriculture and Agri-Food research stations:

- ▶ Bouctouch Agricultural Research Farm, Bouctouch, NB.
- ▶ The Cereal Research Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- ▶ Frelighsburg Sub-station Research farm, Frelighsburg, QC.
- ▶ Kapuskasing Research Farm, Kapuskasing, Ontario
- ▶ Delhi Research Farm, Delhi, Ontario
- ▶ Kamloops Research Centre, Kamloops, B.C.
- ▶ The Onefour Cattle Range Research Centre in Alberta
- ▶ Agriculture Research Centre Libraries

Two years ago the effective closing of Agriculture Canada's Winnipeg Cereals Research Center, the firing of one third of the staff, and the transfer of the remaining staff to Brandon and Morden were part of this disturbing trend.

The Great Canadian Book Burning

Harper has burnt 16 Federal research libraries covering fresh water, health, and agriculture, most recently at Lacombe, Swift Current, and Lethbridge, destroying generations of scientific work. Little to none of this critical information was saved on computers before it was destroyed.

Firing Plant Breeders, other Scientists, Food Inspectors, Librarians, and Support Staff

In the past two years over 1,300 people have lost their jobs at Agriculture Canada, mostly plant breeders, other scientists, agricultural research assistants, research librarians, inspectors, and support staff. This is in addition to the dozens of scientists and food inspectors fired in 2012 and 2013. Our food is much less safe now. Scientists are scrambling for funding, and the future of public interest plant breeding is in doubt.

The internationally recognized Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI) is facing an uncertain future. With privatization its reputation for integrity and objectivity is at risk. In short the City of Winnipeg is fast losing its position as the center of the Canadian grain industry.

The End of Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act Support for the Rural Environment

Harper has closed 24 Federal Agricultural Offices across Canada and killed the Community Pasture Program. He ended the Tree Nursery and shelterbelt program which held back the desert. Federal support for water development, drainage, and wetland enhancement is all but gone.

Harper eliminated the PFRA and closed its offices. The PFRA met the needs of farmers living in the arid prairie region. The PFRA constructed the Gardner dam which provides water to southwestern Saskatchewan for people, irrigation, and recreation. Feedlot alley in southern Alberta is entirely dependent on PRFA's St. Mary dam as are most of the area's irrigation farms.

Experienced PFRA staff gave technical assistance for water projects to rural landowners. PFRA also provided financial assistance for wells, water pipelines, community and RM water systems, dugouts, and pumping systems.

The PFRA operated community pastures and the Indian Head tree nursery. It provided seedlings to more than 700,000 clients since its inception and still sends out more than three million trees a year. "There still is a demand," said Lorne Scott, a former provincial Environment Minister and current conservation director with Nature Saskatchewan. "A lot of existing shelterbelts are old and past maturity." They will need replacement.

The End of Crop Insurance

Agriculture Minister Ritz is on record as saying farmers should buy their own crop insurance. Currently crop insurance premiums are split between the farmer, their Provincial and the Federal governments. We believe that the Harper conservatives want to privatize crop insurance.

Here are two crop insurance contracts from SK and MB for 80% coverage of 50/50 canola and RS wheat and excess moisture insurance:

<u>\$/acre</u>	<u>Sk Farmer</u>	<u>Sask Gov. & Ottawa</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$20.16	\$27.84	\$48.00
<u>\$/acre</u>	<u>Mb Farmer</u>	<u>Mb Gov. & Ottawa</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$11.68	\$16.12	\$27.80

Do you trust Ritz and Harper to keep using government money to support your crop insurance costs? Can you afford forty-eight thousand dollars or more in private crop insurance for every thousand acres you farm?

Ritz and Harper have already drastically changed the margin calculations for *Agri-Stability* to make it more difficult to trigger pay outs. The government contribution to *Agri-Invest* has also been slashed.

Supreme Court Allows Class Action

Western Canadian farmers have served a statement of claim in the Federal Court of Canada alleging Ottawa shortchanged farmers by approximately \$720 million of farmers' money from the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board in 2011/12 when the government was dismantling the marketing organization.

Previous audited financial statements of the Canadian Wheat Board show that when the elected farmers were running the CWB more than 90% of sales revenue was returned to farmers between 1998 and the 2010/11.

For the first time in 79 years the Minister of Agriculture decided to withhold the financial results of the CWB for the 2012/13 crop year. So it is impossible to follow the money as the CWB was transformed from a farmer-run and accountable organization to another foreign-owned and secretive margin trader.

"The lack of farmer oversight at the Board table, together with the Minister's cover-up of CWB finances makes it imperative that the class action move ahead in order to determine what really happened to the money farmers should have earned from their grain sales in 2011/12." said Stewart Wells, chairperson of the Friends of the CWB.

A vote for Conservatives is a vote for:

- ▶ **Less money for Canadian farmers**
- ▶ **Book burning**
- ▶ **Ending public interest science**
- ▶ **Ending PFRA water and environment support**
- ▶ **Taking control of grain genetics away from farmers and Canadians and giving it to the agro-chemical-seed companies**
- ▶ **Introducing Genetically Modified wheat**
- ▶ **Less Canadian control of the food we eat**
- ▶ **Less inspectors, less food safety**
- ▶ **Giving the CWB to Saudi Arabia and Bunge**

What Can You Do?

Vote for Change

Our wheat marketing system was once the envy of the world. Now it is dysfunctional. It is time for the Harper government to be held accountable for the systematic destruction of western Canada's farmer directed and owned Wheat Board marketing system.

**Join the CWB Alliance and others in calling
for the re-establishment of the
CWB single-desk marketing system**

**CANADIAN
WHEAT BOARD
ALLIANCE**

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