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HARPER SAYS NCC TO CONTINUE ADVERTISING DURING WHEAT BOARD "ELECTIONS" DESPITE GAG ATTEMPT

(Oct 5) The National Citizens' Coalition says that it will continue its fight against the Canadian Wheat Board during the so-called "elections" for Directors this fall. "Farmers have a right to know what is wrong with the Wheat Board and its policies," says NCC President Stephen Harper.

"They also have a right to know what a sham this entire electoral process is." NCC ads will point out that, under Wheat Board legislation, the federal government has effectively stacked the election by gerrymandering the electoral districts, selecting its own voters (including tens of thousands of non-farmers), directly picking one-third of the winners, and limiting the mandate of the Board.

"Our ads will point out that Wheat Board Minister Ralph Goodale seems to get his definition of democracy the same way Chretien does lately - from people like Suharto and Castro,," says the NCC leader.

The NCC campaign was welcomed by the Canadian Farm Enterprise Network (CFEN), which has ridiculed the election process, calling it a "demockery".

Harper hopes NCC efforts will remove the "chill effect" that Ottawa is attempting to impose on Prairie farmers through restrictions on free speech and advertising contained in recently released election regulations.

Harper notes that "the NCC position is that such gag laws are unconstitutional and unenforceable. We intend to freely express our political opinions using our own resources. We encourage other organizations and individuals to do the same."

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