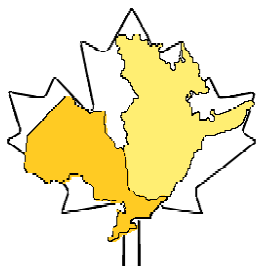


## **NEWS RELEASE**



### **ONTARIO-QUEBEC GRAIN FARMERS' COALITION COALITION DES PRODUCTEURS DE GRAINS QUEBEC-ONTARIO**

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*Representing 41,000 farm families through:  
Ontario Grains & Oilseeds • La Fédération des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec  
La voix de 41 000 familles agricoles*

April 17, 2007

#### **Grain farmer coalition elects new leaders**

GUELPH, ON—The Coalition representing 41,000 grain farmers in Ontario and Quebec is under new leadership.

William Van Tassel, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Federation des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec (FPCCQ), and Walt Charbonneau, Past Chair of the Seed Corn Growers of Ontario will lead the Ontario-Quebec Grain Farmers' Coalition as President and Vice President respectively.

"The Coalition will continue to actively lobby the federal government to provide regional flexibility in federal program funding that is earmarked for grain and oilseed farmers," says Van Tassel. "We're asking that money targeted to provide income support for grain and oilseed farmers should be delivered through companion programs so as to eliminate waste and ad-hoc delivery of funds."

The Coalition sees recent budget announcements as steps in the right direction, especially the \$1 billion toward reforming the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program.

"CAIS benefits price cyclical agricultural sectors, but penalizes grain and oilseed farmers who face persistently declining margins due to unfair international subsidies," says Charbonneau. "We want to work with government to strengthen Canada's farming industry and develop innovative farm programs to replace CAIS."

The Coalition seeks a national income support program with regional flexibility so that Provinces can design programs to meet specific local needs. For grain and oilseed farmers this will mean long-term income stability and predictability. Companion programming would provide long term, bankable solutions to farmers. Farmers would share the costs and risks with government, and farmers would be paid only when the average world price falls below target price.

Other Committee members include Leo Guilbeault, Chair of Ontario Grains & Oilseeds, Benoit Legault, directeur-général, FPCCQ, Dale Mountjoy, President of Ontario Corn Producers' Association, and Peter Tuinema, Manager of Programs and Policy at Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board.

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