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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

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Canadian Wheat Board to be subject to Access to Info despite Liberal and NDP votes against the measure

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OTTAWA – With yesterday’s passage of the Accountability Act in the House of Commons, the Canadian Wheat Board will finally be subject to much needed accountability. Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) is very pleased with this development, which will subject all non-commercial operations of the Canadian Wheat Board to Access to Information provisions.

“This measure will finally allow Western Canadian farmers to see how their money is being spent,” said Vellacott.

“It was shocking to watch the Liberals and the NDP vote against this accountability measure,” Vellacott added. “Why did the Liberals fight so hard to make sure that farmers could not look into CWB spending,” he asked. “Almost every other government entity is covered by this legislation. What do the Liberals want to hide?”

NDP MP Pat Martin brought the amendment forward in committee, only to vote against it in the House of Commons.

“Toronto NDP leader Jack Layton and PEI Liberal MP Wayne Easter worked together to try and deny Western Canadian farmers information about their own money. There were no western rural Liberal MPs anywhere to be found on this file,” said Vellacott’s Saskatchewan colleague David Anderson, who is Parliamentary Secretary (for the Canadian Wheat Board) to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food. “They know that western farmers are demanding openness and accountability.”

“Farmers are locked into the Board and are entitled to know how it is managing their money,” said Vellacott. “This is what compliance with Access to Information legislation is all about.”

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