

What voting mechanism is used in the CWB election?

A preferential ballot system is used in CWB Board of Directors elections. Rather than just checking the box beside one candidate's name, voters are asked to rank candidates in order of voting preference. Voters are not required to rank every candidate on the ballot.

The following information has been taken from the CWB election website, active only during election periods and the time leading up to them.

"A preferential vote system will be used in accordance with Regulation to ensure that elected Directors obtain the support of the majority of producers casting votes in the district. Voters will be asked to rank the candidates in their district, in the order of their voting preference, for example, First choice, Second choice, Third choice, Fourth, etcetera."

If, after the initial count, no candidate has received a majority of First choice votes (i.e. – 50% plus 1 vote), a second count will be conducted. This second count involves eliminating the last place candidate from the process and reassigning that candidate's votes based on his/her voter's second choice or preference of candidate. This process will continue until one candidate receives the required 50% plus one of the votes.

If a voter does not rank all candidates on a ballot, that ballot will continue to be included in successive vote counts as long as the candidate(s) that are ranked remain in the running.

If a voter does not rank his choices in strict numerical sequence, the ballot will be counted only to the extent that a strict sequence is maintained (for example – if a ballot reflects a preferential ranking of 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, etc. only the rankings of 1 and 2 will be utilized --- even if the ranking of 3 is obvious)."

Who is eligible to vote?

Any producer of wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed, rapeseed or canola may vote, regardless of how they use or market their crop. CWB permit book holders are automatically on the voters list, but you do need a permit book to vote.

All other producers who may be entitled to vote will be required to apply to the Election Coordinator by completing an "Application To Vote In The 2010 CWB Election of Directors" (Form 2010 MNP-07) and prove their eligibility. Along with the application, producers must provide one of the following as support to confirm their eligibility: a) a statutory declaration, or b) a crop insurance contract number, or c) a copy of a grain delivery receipt or cash purchase ticket from a licensed elevator or grain dealer that provides evidence of production in the 2008/09, 2009/10 or 2010/11 crop years. This application form may be downloaded from the election website at www.cwbelection.com or may be requested by calling the election information line at 1-877-780-Vote (8683)

Why doesn't the Alberta government rely on the CWB election process to bring about change?

The Alberta government respects the fact that two-thirds of the CWB Board of Directors is elected. It is important to note, however, that only one of the ten districts lies wholly within Alberta's borders.

The Government of Alberta is elected as well, and has a responsibility to act on behalf of its constituents – all Albertans. Repeated polls have shown that the majority of Alberta's farmers would prefer marketing choice, a reality not reflected by the CWB's electoral process.

The Government of Alberta encourages all eligible farmers to vote in the CWB elections. The purpose of the Choice Matters website is to ensure all farmers have all the information they need to make informed decisions about the future of the grain marketing system in Alberta. The sharing of information on all sides of a debate is a responsible way to promote democracy.