



## NEWS RELEASE

### Amalgamation Talks Continue with Vote to Occur February 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Carman, MB – September 18, 2019** – Five Manitoba commodity groups continue to move forward for potential amalgamation with the continued commitment to providing information to members. Members will vote in-person at the annual general meetings as part of the CropConnect Conference on February 12 and 13, 2020.

The steering committee comprised of directors from the Manitoba Corn Growers Association (MCGA), Manitoba Flax Growers Association (MFGA), National Sunflower Association of Canada (NSAC), Winter Cereals Manitoba, Inc. (WCMI) and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association (MWBGA) with assistance from their legal counsel have drafted bylaws of the potential new organization (NEWCO), as well as a draft of the amalgamation agreement.

“To be open, transparent and provide as much information as possible prior to the vote in February 2020, the steering committee wanted to draft the legal documents with respect to the formation of the new organization (NEWCO),” says Gregg Fotheringham, NSAC President. “The draft bylaws cover topics including the purpose of NEWCO, who are its members, how NEWCO will operate, the duties of its crop committee delegate and board of directors, and how meetings are conducted.” The steering committee recommends members read and understand the draft bylaws as good governance lays the foundation for a highly functional and effective organization.

The steering committee has also reviewed a draft amalgamation agreement developed by their legal counsel. “The amalgamation agreement sets out the terms and means of carrying out the amalgamation,” shares Fred Greig, MWBGA Chair. “To address concerns from members, the agreement includes the provision that cash reserves collected by each of the five organizations prior to the date of amalgamation will be invested by NEWCO into research and market development initiatives into the specific crop types it was collected on.”

Myron Krahn, MCGA director adds, “The draft amalgamation agreement also includes that after the date of amalgamation, NEWCO will make all reasonable efforts to ensure research and market development initiatives relating to each specific crop type be maintained at comparable levels.”

Meetings were also held in May and June 2019 with the Manitoba Farm Products Marketing Council (MFPMC) and the Minister of Agriculture Ralph Eichler and his senior staff to provide updates on the potential amalgamation. The MFPMC has determined that a vote in favour of amalgamation by the five organizations would be enough to establish the representative nature of the amalgamated organization.



“The steering committee appreciates the engagement of the Manitoba Farm Products Marketing Council, Minister Eichler and his staff throughout this process,” says Doug Martin, WCMI Chair. “We will ensure the conditions laid out by the Council for the voting process are met,” adds Eric Fridfinnson, director with the MFGA.

The amalgamation proposal, draft bylaws and amalgamation agreement are available at the temporary website [www.mbcrops.ca](http://www.mbcrops.ca). Additional webinars are also being planned after harvest to engage with members and answer any questions leading up to the vote in February 2020.

Feedback from farmer members can be made directly to Rob Hannam at [rob@mbcrops.ca](mailto:rob@mbcrops.ca) or to any of the directors and staff of the five organizations.

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For more information, please contact:

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#### **Background Information:**

The annual general meeting dates of the five organizations, as part of the CropConnect Conference, are:

- National Sunflower Association of Canada – February 12, 2020 at 10:50 a.m.
- Manitoba Corn Growers Association – February 12, 2020 at 12:10 p.m.
- Winter Cereals Manitoba Inc. – February 12, 2020 at 2:40 p.m.
- Manitoba Flax Growers Association – February 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association – February 13, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.

Registration for the CropConnect Conference is not required to attend the annual general meetings.