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- [Classifieds](#)
- [Career Connect](#)
- [Radio](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Information](#)

Events Calendar

July 2007						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

News Headlines

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CWB to Ask Federal Court for Legal Opinion on Removal of Barley Monopoly

Monopoly

WRITTEN BY NEIL BILLINGER - 600 ACTION NEWS-LOCAL FIRST
MONDAY, 18 JUNE 2007

The CWB will ask the court to review the legality of the federal government's attempts to implement an open market system for barley on August 1st.

The CWB will argue that the 1998 amendments to the Canadian Wheat Board Act set out a clear process by which barley could be removed from the single desk. CWB Chairman Ken Ritter says the process has not been followed, including getting parliament to pass an amendment to the Act. Instead, the change was made by regulatory amendment.

Ritter says the accelerated process has created great uncertainty in the barley market, which risks leaving many producers short of their expected returns and liable for contract defaults. He adds "the sooner this is resolved, the better it is for farmers and the entire industry."

Ritter wants the federal government to co-operate so the legal process can move as quickly as possible.

This is not connected to legal action launched last week by a group of farmers belonging to the group "Friends of the Wheat Board." The Saskatchewan government is helping fund that lawsuit to the tune of \$30,000.

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