

LIBERAL LEADER



CANADA

CHEF LIBÉRAL

December 12, 2011

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
Governor General of Canada
Rideau Hall
1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A1

Your Excellency,

I am writing with respect to Bill C-18, *An Act to Reorganize the Canadian Wheat Board and to make Consequential and Related Amendments to Certain Acts*, currently under review by the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

On December 7, the Federal Court ruled that the refusal by the Government of Canada to respect the statutory mandate to convene a plebiscite for farmers prior to dismantling the Canadian Wheat Board breached s. 47.1 of the *Canadian Wheat Board Act*. In his conclusion, Judge Campbell characterizes the "most important effect" of granting the Breach Declaration as holding the responsible Minister "accountable for his disregard for the rule of law."

The Government has indicated that it will appeal this decision. Despite this ongoing dispute about the legality of its actions, the Government is proceeding with consideration of Bill C-18 in the Senate.

The government will almost certainly seek Royal Assent for this legislation in the coming days. As Leader of the Liberal Party, I would ask most respectfully that full consideration be given to awaiting final disposition of this matter by the courts before the legislation receives Royal Assent.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Rae".

The Honourable Bob Rae, P.C., O.C., M.P.