

**ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE  
OF CANADA**

P.O. Box 3880, Stn. C  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 4M5  
E-mail: [animal-defence@ncf.ca](mailto:animal-defence@ncf.ca)

*To receive our Bulletins by e-mail instead of paper, please  
give us your e-mail address, and provide your mailing  
address for removal from our street address mail list.*

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
THIS YEAR? THANK YOU FOR SENDING  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS.  
(See page 15 for Donation/Membership form.)**

ISSN #1204-6639  
Tel: (613)233-6117  
Bulletin #202 – FALL/WINTER 2023

**ADLC Website:** <https://animal-defence.ncf.ca/>

**VIOLENT HANDLING OF SLAUGHTERHOUSE ANIMALS EXPOSED:** March 28, 2023 we emailed: **Pam Alexis**, BC Minister of Agriculture and Food, with a copy to: **BC MLA Sonia Furstenau**, Green Party MPP; **BC MLA Adam Olsen**, Green Party MPP and **BC MLA Ian Paton**, Liberal MPP, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food. Some of the points made in our letter were in a February 23, 2023 emailed sample letter from the **Vancouver Humane Society**, Vancouver, BC.

**RE: Brutal Slaughterhouse Animal Cruelty in British Columbia.**

The federal and provincial governments want us to believe all is okay at slaughterhouses. We know that is not true.

Video footage taken at BC's Meadow Valley Meats (just outside of Vancouver) uncovered horrific and brutal animal abuse. Animals were forcefully hit, kicked, and thrown to the ground; dragged to the kill floor when they could not walk; frightened animals were trampled in crowded hallways as they made panicked attempts to flee; electric prods were used on the faces of animals; and animals were improperly stunned, leaving them conscious at the time of being slaughtered.

Meadow Valley Meats is a provincially licensed and inspected abattoir. Clearly, the British Columbia government system has failed the animals at Meadow Valley Meats, and the animals continue to suffer with very little or nothing being done to improve slaughterhouse conditions or punish the abusers in the agri-food industry.

Video surveillance should be mandatory at all slaughterhouses. This would help to ensure legal requirements and animal welfare standards are being followed. Undercover videos are helping to expose instances of animal abuse. With some provinces having passed ag-gag legislation to stop activists/caring individuals from entering buildings/enclosures where animals are kept, and exposing animal cruelty, inhumane animal care/farming practices, much more animal abuse and cruelty will go unreported. **If the owners and operators are treating food animals humanely and respectfully there wouldn't be a need to be concerned about animal activists/caring people exposing animal cruelty and inhumane practices.**

There needs to be more government action to protect all animals, that includes:

- Proactive enforcement of the Meat Inspection Regulation, which governs provincial slaughterhouses, including appropriate deterrents to prevent animal cruelty and including unannounced inspections;
- Publicly-available reports of independent, third-party audits, including consistent video surveillance monitoring for real transparency; and
- Effective penalties for industry stakeholders who are found guilty of animal cruelty.

**HOW MANY MORE ANIMALS HAVE TO SUFFER BEFORE SOMETHING IS DONE?**

We urge you to give this serious issue the urgent attention it deserves and for much needed changes to be implemented. We would like to know what you are going to do to make change happen, and to not be a bureaucratic accomplice to animal cruelty.

A March 29, 2023 response from the constituency office of **Adam Olsen**, MLA: "...Thank you for sharing this advocacy with our office. I will be raising this issue with **MLA Olsen** as well as sharing it with our Caucus team for their awareness, as this is more their jurisdiction. ... **Jerram Gawley** ..., Constituency Advocate ..."

Reply from NDP MPP Pam Alexis, BC's Minister of Agriculture and Food, June 21, 2023: "...Thank you for your email regarding your concern of abuse of farmed animals captured on video at a B.C.-based slaughterhouse.

Ensuring animals are treated ethically and with care is a priority for our government. The Ministry of *Agriculture and Food* (the Ministry) is reviewing the video footage of Meadow Valley Meats. Allegations of inhumane treatment at Meadow Valley Meats are under investigation by the ***B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA)*** and the BC Meat Inspection Program. All alleged incidents are being reviewed for compliance with s. 13 of the Meat Inspection Regulation, which governs humane treatment of animals after arrival at a licensed provincial slaughter establishment.

Our government takes the wellbeing of all animals seriously, which is why we are reviewing B.C.'s animal welfare system to look for areas where it can be strengthened. The Ministry is also undertaking an assessment of the farmed animal welfare framework in B.C. Animal welfare and an effective regulatory system to address animal cruelty is a *B.C. Government* priority.

The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) is the primary source of protection for farm animals in B.C. Under the PCAA, action can be taken against anyone who causes distress to an animal in B.C. The PCAA has some of the strongest penalties in Canada: the maximum penalty for those convicted of causing animal distress is \$75,000 and up to 24 months imprisonment, or both. ..."

**LET'S STOP HIDING ANIMAL CRUELTY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS:** March 28, 2023 we emailed: Canada's Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister **Marie-Claude Bibeau**, with a copy to: Conservative MP **John Barlow**, Shadow Minister, *Agri-Food and Food Security*; Green Party MPs **Elizabeth May** and **Mike Morrice**; PC MP **Lianne Rood**; and Liberal MP **Nathaniel Erskine-Smith** (March 29, 2023). We used some of ***Animal Justice's*** (Toronto, ON) sample letter provided in their email dated February 23, 2023.

**RE: Mandatory Video Surveillance at all Slaughterhouses is Urgently Needed.**

New secretly-recorded footage, taken inside Meadow Valley Meats, a BC slaughterhouse, was aired on *CTV National News*, February 22, 2023. The videos showed workers beating cows, sheep, and goats, terrified animals being dragged to their deaths, and botched killings, with conscious animals being sliced into. The illegal abuse occurred despite provincial inspectors being present at the slaughterhouse.

Video surveillance in slaughterhouses can be a powerful monitoring tool to ensure accountability and transparency in the animal slaughter process. By mandating surveillance cameras that broadcast directly to the internet, covering all areas where live animals are kept, provincial inspectors, the federal *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*, and the public would be able to witness cruel or other unlawful practices as they occur. And perhaps this would drastically reduce the brutality and cruelty that is taking place behind closed doors in slaughterhouses and factory farms if workers knew they are being watched.

With some provinces having passed ag-gag legislation (and the federal government has been considering it) to stop activists/caring individuals from entering buildings/enclosures where animals are kept, and exposing animal cruelty, inhumane animal care/farming practices, much more animal abuse and cruelty will go unreported. **If the owners and operators are treating food animals humanely and respectfully there wouldn't be a need to be concerned about animal activists/caring people exposing animal cruelty and inhumane practices.**

In places like England, Scotland, Spain and the Netherlands, cameras in slaughterhouses offer a variety of benefits, including opportunities to ensure animals aren't being beaten or roughly handled, ensure conscious animals aren't sliced open, and detect food contamination concerns.

**HOW MANY MORE ANIMALS HAVE TO SUFFER BEFORE SOMETHING IS DONE?**

Please protect the animals and increase transparency by mandating cameras in slaughterhouses. We urge you to give this serious issue the urgent attention it deserves. Without change to enforcement and public transparency, farmed animals will continue to suffer and die horribly behind closed doors. We would like to know what you are going to do to make change happen.

**SUSPEND MEADOW VALLEY MEATS' SLAUGHTER LICENSE:** An April 6, 2023 email from the ***Vancouver Humane Society (VHS)***, Vancouver, BC, was requesting a short tweet be sent to the BC Agriculture and Food Minister using their sample wording: "Why has @Pam\_Alexis\_not suspended Meadow Valley Meats' slaughter license after horrific footage of animal cruelty was released? Accountability is needed to restore public trust." Below is our April 26, 2023 follow-up letter to BC's Minister of Agriculture and Food **Pam Alexis**, inspired by the ***VHS's*** sample tweet wording. A copy was sent (with a note: For your information.) to: BC MLA **Sonia Furstenuau**, Green Party Leader; BC Green Party MLA **Adam Olsen**; BC Liberal MLA **Ian Paton**, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food; Federal MPs: Agriculture & Agri-Food Minister **Marie-Claude Bibeau**; PC MP **John**

**Barlow**, Shadow Minister for *Agriculture, Agri-Food & Food Security*; Green Party MPs **Elizabeth May** and **Mike Morrice**; PC MP **Lianne Rood** and Liberal MP **Nathaniel Erskine-Smith**.

**RE: Shut Down BC's Meadow Valley Meats' Brutal Slaughterhouse.**

Further to our unanswered March 28 email to you regarding the need for Mandatory Video Surveillance at all slaughterhouses, and the secretly-recorded footage taken inside Meadow Valley Meats that was released publicly in February 2023 that showed horrific animal cruelty, we find ourselves writing to you again.

Why have you NOT immediately suspended Meadow Valley Meats' slaughter license?

What is the point of having animal cruelty laws if offenders are not criminally charged and significantly punished as a deterrent to hopefully stop the abuse?

Why aren't agri-business/slaughterhouse owners/operators and workers being charged with animal cruelty and punished with facility closures and jail time?

Email from **Adam Olsen's** constituency office, May 2, 2023: "... Thank you for sharing this with our office. I will be raising this with **MLA Olsen** and sharing it with caucus for their awareness. ... **Jerram Gawley** ..., Constituency Advocate ..."

**Government of Canada e-Petition e-3961 (Animals):** We signed it May 13, 2022. Presented to the *House of Commons*, March 28, 2023, it was asking "... the **Government of Canada** to commit to a plan to implement video surveillance in federally regulated slaughter facilities with a feed that can be viewed by both *CFIA* officials and a third party." The **Government** responded May 11, 2023 (<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3961>):

"Response by the Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food*

Signed by (Minister or Parliamentary Secretary): The **Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau**, PC, MP

The *Government of Canada* takes animal welfare very seriously. The *Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)* is always open to exploring ways to further enhance its practices for enforcing the humane treatment laws for which it is responsible.

***Laws for animal welfare at federally inspected slaughter facilities and CFIA regulatory compliance surveillance activities***

Canada's laws for the humane slaughter of food animals at federally inspected abattoirs are found in the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR)*. *CFIA* drafted these laws based on current international animal welfare research as well as feedback provided by Canadians and other stakeholders during one of the broadest consultations ever conducted by the *Government of Canada*.

In the same way that citizens are responsible for following applicable laws, federally inspected facilities are responsible for following the humane treatment requirements found in the *SFCR*. *CFIA's* role is to verify compliance.

Before receiving a licence to operate a slaughter facility under the federal regime, abattoir owners or operators must have preventive control plans for animal welfare in place. These plans must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of *CFIA*, that the facility is meeting all federal humane handling, stunning and slaughter requirements in the *SFCR*. In this way, *CFIA* verification work begins even before an abattoir is permitted to operate at the federal level.

Once licensed under the federal system, operators can only run slaughter lines when *CFIA* inspectors and veterinarians are on-site to verify that operators are meeting their obligation to fulfill all humane treatment requirements found in the *SFCR*. *CFIA* on-site staff take this responsibility seriously, and circulate the facility on an ongoing basis to verify, to the best of their ability, that animals are protected from unnecessary pain and suffering. It is important to recognize that this system yields high compliance. When instances of non-compliance are identified, inspectors are present to address these promptly and effectively.

***Reliability of undercover video footage on the internet***

When *CFIA* receives reports of animal cruelty at federally inspected facilities, it takes them seriously and investigates. However, for various reasons, investigations occasionally reveal that there is no current animal welfare concern. For example, because information can remain online indefinitely, *CFIA* sometimes receives reports of situations that have already been investigated and appropriately dealt with. Slaughter practices vary around the world. There are images on the internet depicting inhumane slaughter practices taking place in other countries that are not permitted under Canadian law.

***Video monitoring in federally inspected slaughter facilities in Canada***

Any changes *CFIA* makes to surveillance activities must conform to Canadian legal requirements and be based on the effectiveness of the new measure at improving compliance. *CFIA* continually assesses scientific research on best practices for animal welfare. Based on this information, *CFIA* regularly updates humane slaughter requirements and activities.

At this time, it is not clear that video monitoring would strengthen the existing compliance verification system. As mentioned in the petition, some countries have already mandated the use of video surveillance in slaughter facilities. Canada, along with the rest of the international community, will be interested in any data that emerges from these countries. CFIA welcomes the sharing of knowledge, research and data to help inform approaches and policies regarding the humane treatment of animals in Canada.”

**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF DAIRY CATTLE:** January 27, 2022 we submitted our comments to an online public comment survey. We reported on this in Bulletin #200 – FALL/WINTER 2022. The updated Code of Practice was released March 30, 2023. It is a voluntary standard, not a law.

A May 1, 2023 **Animal Justice Blog**, “7 Ways Canada’s New Dairy Code Condones Cruelty” (<https://animaljustice.ca/blog/dairy-code-condones-cruelty>), excerpt: “... 1. **Cow-Calf Separation** ... The scientific committee working on the code acknowledged cow-calf separation as the top priority animal welfare issue. Yet the new code is silent on separation—calves can still be taken away from their mothers immediately after birth. 2. **Calves Can Be Tied Up & Kept Alone in Tiny Hutches** ... By 2031, the code says calves should be kept in pairs or groups after they reach four weeks of age. ... 3. **Cows Can Still Be Tied in Stalls, Denied Outdoor Access** ... A shocking 73% of cows are tethered inside their stalls when not being milked, according to the scientific committee, and this loss of movement is associated with higher rates of injuries to their hocks, knees, and neck. As of 2027, the code says that a cow can’t be tethered for her entire ‘production cycle’ (i.e., from one forcible impregnation and birth to the next) and should have ‘sufficient regular opportunity for freedom of movement’. But this vague language could still allow farmers to keep cows tethered for nearly the entire day. ... the code merely recommends (but does not require) that cows get around 50 hours outdoors per month, if the weather permits. ... 4. **Cows Can Be Shocked With Electricity** ... Even though these cruel devices are associated with increased injuries, they can be used to ‘train or retrain’ cows. 5. **No Emergency Plan Required, Despite Increase in Extreme Weather Disasters** ... 6. **No Protection for Pregnant & End-Of-Life Cows Sent to Slaughter** ... 7. **Other Ways Cows Will Suffer** This is just a snapshot of some of the worst abuses the dairy industry approves of through its new code. Other problems include: • Electric prods are allowed—they can still be used in ‘extreme’ situations, or to shock a downed cow to see if she can move. • Dehorning and disbudding cows is still allowed ... • Calves aren’t protected during transport ... • Relying on outcome-based measures, instead of specific, clear requirements. ... Without specific requirements, farmers are given far too much leeway to make decisions that maximize profit at the expense of cows and calves. Overall, **Animal Justice** gives the new dairy code a failing grade. ...” [**ADLC** agrees as well.]

**BILL C-275, AN ACT TO AMEND THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS ACT:** June 7, 2023 the **Vancouver Humane Society (VHS)**, Vancouver, BC, was urging letters be sent to federal politicians asking them to oppose Bill C-275. The Bill could be put to a vote any day. The **VHS** provided a form letter that you could email. Using some of their letter’s points, and some points in a letter we sent out last June, we emailed the following politicians, June 13, 2023: **Marie-Claude Bibeau**, Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food ([Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca)); **Jenica Atwin**, Liberal MP ([Jenica.Atwin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jenica.Atwin@parl.gc.ca)); **Nathaniel Erskine-Smith**, Liberal MP ([Nathaniel.Erskine-Smith@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Nathaniel.Erskine-Smith@parl.gc.ca)); **Jagmeet Singh**, NDP MP ([jagmeet.singh@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jagmeet.singh@parl.gc.ca)); **Rachel Blaney**, NDP MP ([rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca)); **Don Davies**, NDP MP ([don.davies@parl.gc.ca](mailto:don.davies@parl.gc.ca)); **Gord Johns**, NDP MP ([gord.johns@parl.gc.ca](mailto:gord.johns@parl.gc.ca)); **Peter Julian**, NDP MP ([peter.julian@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.julian@parl.gc.ca)); **Brian Masse**, NDP MP ([brian.masse@parl.gc.ca](mailto:brian.masse@parl.gc.ca)); **Elizabeth May**, Green Party MP ([Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca)); **Mike Morrice**, Green Party MP ([mike.morrice@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mike.morrice@parl.gc.ca)); **Marilyn Gladu**, Conservative MP ([Marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca)); and **Michelle Rempel Garner**, Conservative MP ([Michelle.Rempel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Rempel@parl.gc.ca)).

It is our understanding that Bill C-275 will soon be put to a vote in the *House of Commons*. We urge you to please oppose this bill and instead support real accountability and transparency within Canada’s animal agriculture sector to better protect animal welfare and bring peace of mind to consumers and farmers.

This bill is being used in an attempt to stop caring people from entering buildings/enclosures where animals are kept and exposing animal cruelty, inhumane animal care/farming practices more than it is for concern for “biosecurity on farms”. Thanks to these caring animal advocates, horrific animal abuse has been exposed. Trespassing is already an offence, and there are no documented cases of disease outbreaks having been caused by animal advocates. Instead, we should be turning attention towards the farmers if the government really wants to reduce the risk of exposure of animals to diseases or toxic substances.

Why are farm owners and operators exempt from being charged for disease outbreaks on farms that “tend to be caused by standard farming practices and errors on the part of farm owners and operators.”? [**“Federal ag gag bill fizzles out after committee study” by Jan Hajek & Kaitlyn Mitchell, <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/07/06/opinion/federal-ag-gag...>**]

The inhumane intensive-farming living conditions and treatment of animals on these agri-business factory-farms needs to be addressed immediately.

There needs to be more government action to protect all animals and to not punish the activists/caring individuals who expose animal cruelty and deplorable factory-farming practices. At a minimum government action should include: independent, third-party oversight and audits of farms and slaughterhouses; consistent video monitoring; proactive enforcement; and effective penalties.

We urge you to not support Bill C-275, and hope to hear from you on this important issue.

**Response from Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, June 13, 2023:** "... I'm opposed to Bill C-275, and voted against similar ag-gag legislation in the last parliament. Unfortunately, as you note, while the Liberal government also opposed the ag-gag legislation previously, the bill passed at 2<sup>nd</sup> reading due to the support of Conservatives and NDP MPs.

I will make sure to raise the issue of C-275 with the NDP agriculture critic, as trespassing laws already exist across Canada, rendering this legislation redundant.

Related to bio security, I will be tabling legislation shortly focused on pandemic risk mitigation and that highlights the need to reduce pandemic risk in our food system.

On the specific subject of ag-gag laws, you may also be interested in listening to my conversation about these laws with **Animal Justice** lawyers **Camille Labchuck** and **Peter Sankoff** on my podcast Uncommons. ..."

**Response from Green Party MP Elizabeth May, June 20, 2023:** "... I truly agree. This bill is redundant in its current form, and it infringes on current provincial legislation. It would act to penalize protesters, rather than protect the animals themselves.

Current animal welfare in animal agriculture is highly insufficient. Animals are treated poorly, and depending on the animal, can go days without food, water or rest during travel. This bill seeks to quell the efforts of protesters who are against this maltreatment.

To advance biosecurity on farms, which is what the bill says is its intention, the animals should be kept in clean, safe conditions. Instead, too many animals are packed into spaces with not enough room, the spaces are not cleaned properly, and the animals are not genetically diverse. Having a species too genetically similar means that all animals or plants of that type are susceptible to the same diseases, which means that the diseases spread faster, and the species is less immune.

By improving conditions for animals in farms, such as giving them adequate, clean space, nutritious food, water, rest and exercise, the animals would be far healthier. Humane treatment should not be an option, it should be mandatory.

The right to peaceful assembly under section 2(c) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms must be upheld. Peaceful assembly allows protesters to share their messages and advocate for their beliefs. I will closely watch bill C-275 as it progresses to ensure these factors are taken into account.

Thank you again for writing. I will continue to advocate for human and animal rights. ..."

**CANADA'S BRUTAL, INHUMANE ANNUAL EAST COAST COMMERCIAL SEAL SLAUGHTER:** Using online information from **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)**, Yarmouth Port, MA, and **Species Unite**, Brooklyn, NY, April 25, 2023 we emailed the letter below to **Fisheries and Oceans Minister Murray**:

Once again, the annual east coast commercial seal hunt began off the coast of Eastern Canada this April. The *Government of Canada* has made many attempts to keep this violent and cruel commercial seal hunt going, by spending hundreds of millions of taxpayers' money since 1996. This slaughter is internationally condemned and 36 countries have banned seal products.

As well, seal and fishery scientists have unanimously agreed that killing large numbers of harp seals will not help cod stocks recover, and could have unexpected negative consequences for the ocean ecosystem.

Please stop funding this shameful slaughter and instead create economic opportunities that do not include cruelty to animals such as supporting efforts to remove and recycle fishing gear and plastic marine debris for those few remaining individuals who take part in the annual hunt in Atlantic Canada.

Why are you enabling horrific animal cruelty for the sake of the few annual jobs created?

**June 19, 2023 email from Jennifer Blule, Director General, Fisheries Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada:** "... I can assure you that the conservation and humane treatment of seals is a foremost concern for *Fisheries and Oceans Canada*. The *Government of Canada* is committed to supporting a sustainable, humane, and well-regulated seal harvest that supports Canada's Indigenous, rural, and coastal communities.

Canadian seal populations are healthy and abundant ... . Canada's harvest strategies are guided by peer-reviewed scientific advice concerning the sustainability of seal stocks and is unrelated to predation of seals on other species. ...

With respect to removing ghost fishing gear and plastic debris from the marine environment, I agree that this is a very important objective. The Ghost Gear Program was launched in 2019 as part of the *Government of Canada's* commitment to support efforts to reduce plastics in our oceans. A key component of this program is the Ghost Gear Fund, which supports projects to remove lost, abandoned, and derelict fishing gear; responsible disposal; acquisition and piloting of innovative gear technology; and international leadership. To date, this fund has provided \$26.7 million in funding for 91 projects ... and has supported the retrieval of 1,699 tonnes of ghost gear, including 457 kilometres of rope. A further \$30 million was allocated for 2023-2024 to address areas in Atlantic Canada and Eastern Quebec that were affected by Hurricane Fiona. ..."

**STOP ILLEGAL WILDLIFE HUNTING CONTESTS:** December 14, 2022 *Animal Justice*, Toronto, ON, along with *The Fur-Bearers*, North Vancouver, BC, and *Coyote Watch Canada*, St. Davids, ON, took the *Ontario Government* to court over illegal hunting contests. *Animal Justice* was encouraging the public to send emails to the Ontario Minister of *Natural Resources* asking him to take action against illegal hunting contests ([animaljustice.ca/blog/ontario-coyote-killing-contest](https://animaljustice.ca/blog/ontario-coyote-killing-contest)). January 3, 2023 we emailed our letter to **The Hon. Graydon Smith**, Minister of *Natural Resources and Forestry*. A slightly different letter was emailed to: **John Yakabuski**, PC MPP, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the *Environment, Conservation & Parks*; **Lisa M. Thompson**, PC MPP, Minister of *Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs*; **Michael S. Kerzner**, PC MPP, Solicitor General; **Mike Schreiner**, Green Party MPP; **Stephen Blais** (Liberal MPP – Orleans); **Lucille Collard**, (Liberal MPP – Ottawa-Vanier); **John Fraser** (Liberal MPP – Ottawa South); **Joel Harden** (NDP MPP – Ottawa Centre); and January 17, 2023 to **Todd Smith** (PC MPP – Belleville). See *ADLC's* SPRING/SUMMER 2023 Bulletin #201.

In an April 13, 2023 email from *Animal Justice*, Toronto, ON, they reported that they lost their court case against the *Government of Ontario*: "... Last December, *Animal Justice*, *The Fur-Bearers*, and *Coyote Watch Canada* argued in court that the *Ontario government* unlawfully let this killing contest take place at Chesher's Outdoor Store [near Belleville, ON] – with thousands of dollars in cash prizes awarded for gunning down innocent coyotes. It's against the law to hunt for gain or bounty, or to induce others to hunt for gain, yet the government refuses to crack down on this sickening annual killing spree.

While the Court found that the store may well have broken the law, the judges said it was up to authorities to decide whether they would act to stop it.

*Animal Justice* is deeply disappointed that the ruling offers no justice for the innocent coyotes shot for sport.

... But no one is above the law. That's why *Animal Justice* and *Coyote Watch Canada* recently filed an application for an investigation under the Environmental Bill of Rights of the store's 2023 coyote hunting contest.

While we assess our next steps in the fight to protect coyotes, one thing is clear: we won't give up on our work to stop this senseless coyote slaughter. ..."

**USING LIVE WILDLIFE AS BAIT TO TRAIN HUNTING DOGS:** In a May 5, 2023 email from *Animal Justice* about this: "... The Ministry of *Natural Resources* plans to reverse a decades-old ban on new dog hunting pens -- outdoor spaces where hunters train dogs by sending them to kill terrified foxes, coyotes, and rabbits, trapped in a pen. ..."

There was a public consultation on the matter with a DEADLINE of May 18, 2023. May 16 we filed our submission online. We also sent our letter/submission to the following province of Ontario politicians: **The Hon. Graydon Smith**, Minister of *Natural Resources and Forestry*; **The Hon. David Piccini**, Minister of the *Environment, Conservation and Parks*; **MPP John Yakabuski**, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the *Environment, Conservation & Parks*; **The Hon. Lisa Thompson**, Minister of *Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs*; **The Hon. Michael Kerzner**, Solicitor General; **MPP Christine Hogarth**, Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General; Green Party **MPP Mike Schreiner**; Liberal **MPP Stephen Blais**; Liberal **MPP Lucille Collard**; NDP **MPP Joel Harden**. Below is our submission:

**LEGALIZED ANIMAL CRUELTY. When will it stop? (ERO #019-3685)**

**RE: Additional Penned Dog Hunting Facilities Proposed in Ontario. Disgusting, inhumane and unethical.**

Why would the *Government of Ontario* want to even consider allowing new facilities to be licensed to train dogs to cruelly hunt captive live foxes, coyotes and rabbits as training bait? Instead, you should be considering closing down all existing "Train and Trial" locations.

We are outraged that there are 24 Train and Trial licensed facilities still in business in Ontario. There should be none allowed. Some animals are caught by trappers which is traumatizing, then they are sold, and released into these penned enclosures only to be terrorized again. And some of the wildlife may be bred to provide offspring for future captive hunts.

These wild captive animals are often viciously killed by the dogs. What type of people would request permission to allow this horrific and brutal animal abuse, and what about our government officials who are entertaining such a request.

To read the Ministry of *Natural Resources and Forestry's* "Proposal details Background" information (Your ERO number 019-3685, "Proposal to allow the issuance of licences for new dog train and trial areas and the transfer of licences") is in itself extremely unsettling (excerpt):

"Train and trial areas are enclosed areas on private land where certain wildlife (i.e. cottontail, snowshoe hare, red fox or coyote) are kept captive for the purposes of teaching dogs hunting skills such as picking up scent trails, tracking, and pursuing game at a safe distance. They are also used to conduct hunting dog competitions (known as 'trialing'). The fenced areas are designed to keep both the wildlife and the dogs confined to the area (not allowing for the free passage of wildlife).

Train and trial areas are utilized to:

- train hunting dogs to only pursue specific game species in the wild by having them practice in a controlled environment
- exercise hunting dogs in the off-season
- provide a dedicated space for training where dogs and wildlife are contained and safe, to avoid conflicts with other land and resource users
- run trialing competitions where dogs are scored by judges for their hunting abilities"

We do not understand how the government can justify this animal brutality. Are you aware that more than four out of five Canadians oppose hunting animals for sport. We hope that you will also be one of those Canadians who opposes hunting for sport.

On one hand, the *Government of Ontario* established the Ontario **Animal Protection Call Centre** for the public to report when they think an animal is in distress or being abused, and on the other hand, we have the Ontario Ministry of *Natural Resources and Forestry* considering a "Proposal to allow the issuance of licences for new dog Train and Trial areas and the transfer of licences". Sport hunting is not a necessity. Help us understand this contradiction.

We wholeheartedly are opposed to any additional Train and Trial facilities being allowed to open, and we would like to see the *Government of Ontario* close down any facilities that are still open.

We hope you agree with our position and if not, we would like to hear from you why not.

May 16, 2023 we received an email from the *Environmental Registry of Ontario* informing us that our comment on ERO-#019-3685 has been approved for publishing online. This will happen when the decision for the proposal is posted.

June 21, 2023 an email from **Graydon Smith**, Minister of *Natural Resources and Forestry*: "... Train and trial facilities will continue to be strictly regulated under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*. These strict requirements include licensing, robust fencing to prevent movement of wildlife into or out of the area, limits on the species that may be involved in training or trials, standards of care for wildlife, habitat requirements within the facilities (including providing areas of refuge), record keeping requirements to ensure compliance, and minimum standards for facility size and frequency of activities.

... the purpose of these facilities is to allow sporting dogs to practice tracking and pursuing in a safe and controlled environment. Both the facility operators and the sporting dog owners take steps to prevent harm to sporting dogs and the animals they pursue over the course of a tracking or trialing exercise. ...

My ministry will consider all feedback received on the proposal prior to making a decision. ..."

**The Minister's response is SHAMEFUL. The majority of Canadians are opposed to hunting animals for sport.**

May 25, 2023 response from the office of Liberal **MPP Collard**: "... It is concerning that the **Ford** Government is looking to allow for the expansion of these penned hunting facilities. While we recognize and respect the important role hunting plays in our shared heritage, the Ontario Liberal Party maintains that train and trial hunting pens are inhumane and unethical.

Phasing out penned hunting in Ontario more than twenty years ago was the right decision and should not be undone. Why the **Ford** Government decided now was the time to revive a practice that promotes the inhumane treatment of animals remains unclear. We continue to oppose this change ..."

**“Stop Ontario Government from allowing captive wildlife to be used as bait to train dogs”**, Change.org petition we signed on May 16, 2023.

**WHY IS CANADA'S DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE (DND) STILL MAIMING AND KILLING ANIMALS IN MEDICAL TRAINING?:** Response to our February 1, 2023 letter (See **ADLC's** SPRING/SUMMER 2023 Bulletin #201.) to the Minister of *National Defence* from **Joanne Lostracco**, *National Defence Corporate Secretary*, April 5, 2023: "... *DND* strictly adheres to the guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), which establishes the ethical use and care of animals. And, as part of *DND's* commitment to appropriately minimize live animal models, Canadian Forces Health Services (CFHS) uses advanced simulation for most of its medical training, resorting to live tissue training sparingly and only to train those specialized military medical tasks where simulation is not feasible.

The use of animals in research is done to develop drugs and therapies for the protection of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, including defence against chemical, radiological and biological weapons, as well as for advanced medical training.

CAF personnel are expected to operate in life-threatening and hazardous environments. They play a critical role safeguarding other soldiers, citizens, the environment, as well as major infrastructure, and respond with the expectation that they have access to the best training, equipment, and support necessary to carry out their missions successfully and safely. For this reason, medical technicians and chemical warfare agent response units go through extensive tactical medical courses. These courses, of which live tissue training is a small but critical component, is focused on assisting medical technicians in acquiring life-saving skills for use in combat situations.

CFHS will continue to comply with all CCAC regulations regarding animal use and will continue to explore ways to reduce the use of animals in support of training for operations. Further, *DND* continues to work with leading international experts to assess the effectiveness of simulation technologies in an effort to refine, reduce and where appropriate, replace the use of live animals for training. ..."

**Government of Canada e-Petition e-4330 (Animals):** We signed it March 31, 2023. It asked the "... Minister of *National Defence* to bring an end to the use of animals in military trauma training and replace them with more advanced, human-relevant and less expensive human patient simulators."

**ADLC'S SPAY/NEUTER FUND AND ANIMALS IN DISTRESS FUND:** **ADLC** does not subsidize cats/dogs with poor veterinarian's prognosis – but we help with the cost of euthanasia in some cases. **ADLC** does not subsidize if there is no committed foster/permanent home or caretaker. From January to July 2023 we helped five individuals: two with dogs – a paw problem, and glands; three individuals with 4 cats: a sinus infection, weak back legs, bloated stomach and one neuter. We helped cat rescuers with some of the cost of 7 spays/5 neuters/vaccinations/deworming/defleaing, antibiotics for a leg and neck wound, various medications, cat food, and one euthanasia. We continue our monthly cat/dog food deliveries to **Parkdale Food Centre**, **St. Joe's Women's Centre** and **St. Joe's Supper Table**, all in Ottawa. The **Supper Table** shares with a second centre they run on Wiggins Private. **Your support has made this possible. We thank you.**

**To DONATE to **ADLC's** Spay/Neuter Fund or Animals In Distress Fund, see page 15.**

**NEW ADLC SPAY PROJECT:** This project began earlier this year with the help of the Ottawa Spay/Neuter Clinic. Every month we will contribute towards half the cost of spaying 3 dogs. To qualify individuals must either be living in Ottawa Community Housing, or receiving Ontario Disability Support Payments (ODSP), or income through Ontario Works (OW). Those individuals booking the spay appointments would have to pay half of the cost as well. Should the three monthly spots not be filled by someone living in Ottawa Community Housing, or receiving help from ODSP or OW, then one female dog through the **Community Veterinary Outreach** organization can fill one monthly spot as long as the **Community Veterinary Outreach** organization covers half of the cost. So far 5 dogs were spayed through this project.



**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA'S AGM, March 26, 2023, 1:38 pm, St. Laurent Complex, Solarium Room, 525 Côté Street, Ottawa, Ontario:** President R. Farley chaired the meeting. A quorum of members was present. Paraphrased/excerpted reports follow:

**MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 27, 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM):** **MOTION:** The March 27, 2022 AGM minutes be accepted as presented. **MOVED** by R. Farley. **SECONDED** by B. Bernhardt. **CARRIED** with no objections.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** **2022 Financial Statements:** J. Bélair presented the Review Engagement Financial Statements and Report prepared by **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** for the year ending December 31, 2022. **MOTION:** Accept the Review Engagement



Financial Statements and Review Engagement Report prepared by **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** for the year ending December 31, 2022. **MOVED** by B. Bernhardt. **SECONDED** by R. Bélair. **CARRIED** with no objections.

Appoint a Public Accountant: **MOTION:** The Directors of **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA** appoint **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** to be our accountant for the 2023 financial year. **MOVED** by R. Farley. **SECONDED** by J. Bélair. **CARRIED** with no objections.

Have Appointed Public Accountant Conduct an Audit for 2023: **MOTION:** The Directors of **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA** are authorized to have **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** conduct an audit for our 2023 financial year and prepare our Financial Statements, Report and tax forms for 2023 on behalf of the **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA**. **MOVED** by R. Farley. **SECONDED** by B. Bernhardt. **CARRIED** with no objections.

J. Bélair presented an outline of **ADLC's** 2023 General Operating Budget and Projects Budgets (prepared by **ADLC**) which had been previously approved by the Board.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT: 2023-2024 ADLC Directors:** R. Farley presented the list of candidates to serve as Directors on the **ADLC's** Board for 2023-2024: J. Bélair [Treasurer], R. Bélair [General Secretary], B. Bernhardt, N. Evans, R. Farley [President]. **MOTION:** The list of candidates be accepted as presented. **MOVED** by R. Farley. **SECONDED** by R. Bélair. **CARRIED** with no objections.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: COMPANION ANIMALS: ADLC'S SPAY/NEUTER FUND AND ANIMALS IN DISTRESS FUND: ADLC** does not subsidize cats/dogs with poor veterinarian's prognosis – but we help with the cost of euthanasia in some cases. **ADLC** does not subsidize if there is no committed foster/permanent home or caretaker. From January to December 2022 we helped six individuals with dogs: mouth infection/teeth, eye infection, skin problems, leg wound and a dog not feeling well; four individuals with cats: teeth, inflamed gums, eye infection and a sick cat was evaluated. Cat rescuers with some of the cost of various medications, dental for one cat, cat food and one euthanasia, 18 spays/neuters/vaccinations/defleaing/deworming of street cats. We continued our monthly cat/dog food deliveries to **Parkdale Food Centre, St. Joe's Women's Centre and St. Joe's Supper Table**, all in Ottawa. The **Supper Table** shares with a second centre they run on Wiggins Private. In conjunction with OTTAWA SPAY/NEUTER DAY, February 22, 2022 (which at our request, Ottawa's **Mayor Watson** proclaimed) we covered the cost of 2 cat spays and 5 cat neuters of clients of the **Community Veterinary Outreach** organization in Ottawa. Your support has made this possible. We thank you.

**NEW ADLC SPAY PROJECT:** We approached the City of Ottawa Spay/Neuter Clinic about an idea we had. We wanted to cover half of the cost of three dog spays each month being done at the Clinic of individuals who are living in Ottawa Community Housing, or are receiving Ontario Disability Support Payments (ODSP), or income through Ontario Works (OW) and who are also trying to book spay appointments. Those individuals booking the spay appointments would have to pay half of the cost as well. The Spay/Neuter Clinic agreed to work with us. The Clinic asked if we might consider adding Ottawa's **Community Veterinary Outreach (CVO)** organization's clients as well. Should the three monthly spots not be filled by someone living in Ottawa Community Housing, or receiving help from ODSP or OW, then one female dog from the **CVO** organization can fill one monthly spot as long as the **Community Veterinary Outreach** organization covers half of the cost. We are very pleased that this project will start in 2023, and we appreciate the Ottawa Spay/Neuter Clinic's support that enabled this idea to take off.

**ADLC ADVERTISING: ADLC'S SPAY/NEUTER FUND AND ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH FUND:** Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter 2022 **Seniors Activities & Services Directory:** We placed our combined 2/3 page advertorial and 1/3 page ad in this Directory which is distributed in areas in Ontario such as Kingston, Merrickville, Lanark, Almonte. The advertorial was about our Spay/Neuter Fund and non-animal-using Alternative Research Fund, while the 1/3 page ad was a general write-up about the **ADLC**.

**FOOD ANIMALS: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF DAIRY CATTLE:** Thanks to a January 11, 2022 **Animal Justice** email, Toronto, ON, about this that included a link to the **Montreal SPCA**, Montreal, QC, which had a button that you could click that brought up a survey that you could comment on this *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle* until January 27, 2022. We filled in sections of the survey on January 24. We relied on the **Montreal SPCA** and **Animal Justice** to be okay with the five key welfare points that were chosen to focus on.

We asked them to end the unacceptable total solitary isolation of calves that can last several months. The practice of keeping cows permanently tethered indoors needs to end. Measures need to be in place to deal with natural disasters, such as occurred in 2021 in British Columbia, with so much flooding and loss of farm animal lives. As well as for possible labour disputes, human

pandemics which may result in less staff, animal diseases outbreaks, fires, evacuation of animals. The Code of Practice should provide detailed guidance concerning steps to be taken prior to transport. Animals that are injured, compromised or unfit, are pregnant or still lactating should not be permitted to be transported. This should be clearly stated in the Code. The practice of separating the calf from its mother shortly after birth needs to change.

We also added final comments about how appalling and inhumanely food animals are raised on factory farms. On-farm animal welfare is almost entirely unregulated, and there are no government inspections aimed at detecting abuse on farms. We asked that they create legally-binding welfare regulations for animals on farms, conduct regular unannounced inspections at farms, and require that all farms and slaughterhouses install cameras that livestream to the internet so Canadians can see for themselves what happens behind closed doors at farms. We urged them to please improve fire safety in existing and new barn buildings because the lives of firefighters, farm workers and animals depend on it.

Protecting the welfare of the hundreds of millions of farmed animals in Canada that undergo transportation journeys every year must also be a top priority. By the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency's* own statistics, **approximately 14 million animals suffer injuries and 1.6 million die during transport journeys every year**. That is an alarming number of animals, and that should have the National Farm Animal Care Council and the government concerned about what is happening in this industry alone. [See **ADLC's** Bulletin #200 – FALL/WINTER 2022.]

**VIDEO SURVEILLANCE NEEDED AT CANADIAN SLAUGHTERHOUSES:** E-Petition to the *Government of Canada* – e-3961 (Animals): We signed it May 13, 2022. It called "... upon the **Government of Canada** to commit to a plan to implement video surveillance in federally regulated slaughter facilities with a feed that can be viewed by both *CFIA* officials and a third party."

**CANADA'S FEDERAL BILL C-275, An Act to Amend the Health of Animals Act:** February 18, 2020 Conservative **MP John Barlow** introduced Private Member's Bill C-205. Bill C-205 was an attempt to stop activists/caring individuals from entering buildings/enclosures where animals are kept, and exposing animal cruelty, inhumane animal care/farming practices. Trespassing is already an offence. March 10, 2021 this bill was referred to the Standing Committee on *Agriculture and Agri-Food* for further study. NOW THERE IS BILL C-275.

June 16, 2022 we emailed letters to: **Marie-Claude Bibeau**, Minister of *Agriculture & Agri-Food*; and 12 Federal MPs. We told them that we were very disappointed and regretted that **MP John Barlow** had introduced this Bill on May 30, 2022. Except for a few word changes it reads the same as Bill C-205 that he introduced on February 18, 2020.

Why are farm owners and operators exempt from being charged for disease outbreaks on farms that "tend to be caused by standard farming practices and errors on the part of farm owners and operators."? ("**Federal ag gag bill fizzles out after committee study**" by Jan Hajek and Kaitlyn Mitchell, <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/07/06/opinion/federal-ag-gag...>)

There needs to be more government action to protect all animals and to not punish the activists/caring individuals who expose animal cruelty and deplorable factory-farming practices. They should create and implement binding farm animal welfare laws and regular public inspections.

More attention should be turned towards the farmers, owners and operators who, if they were raising food animals humanely and respectfully, with their well-being in mind, there wouldn't be a need to be concerned about animal activists/caring people exposing animal cruelty and the inhumane practices of agri-business factory-farming.

We urged them to not support Bill C-275.

We received a very supportive reply from **MP Elizabeth May**, Green Party, November 14, 2022. She is opposed to Bill C-275, and pledged to oppose and vote against this bill when it comes up for a vote in the fall, and she will continue to push for expanded animal rights in the *House of Commons*. [See **ADLC's** Bulletin #201 – SPRING/SUMMER 2023.]

**COSMETIC ANIMAL TESTING, HORSE EXPORTS & FACTORY FARMING FOR FOOD OR FUR:** In Bulletin #199, SPRING/SUMMER 2022 and Bulletin #200, FALL/WINTER 2022 we reported that on November 29, 2021 we emailed a letter concerning cosmetic testing, live horse exports and factory farming for food or fur to the following federal politicians: **Prime Minister Trudeau**; **Marie-Claude Bibeau**, Minister of *Agriculture & Agri-Food*; Liberal **MP Jenica Atwin**; Green Party **MP Elizabeth May** and Green Party **MP Mike Morrice**. We asked that they please make animal protection a priority. The first point in our letter was that Canada should ban cosmetic animal testing and phase out toxicity tests on animals. July 8, 2022 we received an interesting email from **Roger Charland**, Director General, Consumer and Hazardous Products Safety Directorate, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, *Health Canada*. He was responding to our email to the Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food* that was forwarded to the Minister of *Health*.

Excerpt: "... Through the Minister of *Health's* mandate letter, the Government has committed to introducing legislation to

end cosmetic testing on animals. While the *Food and Drugs Act* does not require cosmetic products to be tested on animals, *Health Canada* is working with stakeholders to develop a proposal to ban cosmetic testing on animals and implement sound scientific approaches that would protect animals, while ensuring that cosmetic products continue to be safe for Canadians.

... on February 9, 2022, the Government introduced Bill S-5, *Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act* in the *Senate* to amend the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA)*. Bill S-5 would amend *CEPA* to recognize the need to reduce reliance on animal testing when assessing the risks that chemical substances may pose to human health and the environment. This proposed amendment would encourage the promotion, development, and timely use of alternative methods and strategies, as science permits (e.g., computer-based models, testing on cell cultures). This commitment is in line with international efforts to replace, reduce, or refine animal testing, and contributes to and capitalizes on advances in technology.

*Health Canada* is also working in close collaboration with international partners to advance the science needed to develop and promote the use of alternatives to animal testing. ...” [See more of his letter in **ADLC’s Bulletin #200, FALL/WINTER 2022.**]

**BAN LIVE HORSE EXPORTS:** In a November 15, 2022 email, **Animal Justice**, Toronto, ON, was encouraging letters be sent to Federal Members of Parliament, and to also sign a Government electronic Petition to the Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food*, e-4190 (Animals). November 29, 2022 we emailed letters to: **Prime Minister Trudeau; Marie-Claude Bibeau**, Minister of *Agriculture & Agri-Food*; **Jenica Atwin**, Liberal MP; **Elizabeth May**, Green Party MP; **Mike Morrice**, Green Party MP; **Michelle Rempel Garner**, Conservative MP; **Dr. Siddika Mithani**, President, *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*.

Every year thousands of horses are transported by air from Canada to Japan and South Korea for human consumption. They are terrified and may panic, and it puts them at greater risk of injury, illness and sometimes death. We wanted the Liberal Government to be held to its election promise to ban the export of live horses for slaughter. What these horses are put through is cruel, inhumane, and it needs to **STOP NOW**. We asked if they agreed, and if they would work to end this miserable and appalling business for profit?

A reply from **Dr. Mary Jane Ireland**, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, on behalf of **Dr. Siddika Mithani**, President of the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)*, December 5, 2022: “... At the federal level, the *CFIA* is responsible for enforcing the *Health of Animals Act* and the *Health of Animals Regulations*, which govern the humane transportation of all animals, and for verifying that food animals are humanely slaughtered in federally inspected meat establishments, as required under the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*.

... a commitment to ban the live export of horses for slaughter was included in the mandate letter of the Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food* from the Prime Minister. The *Government of Canada* is currently analyzing this commitment and industry will be engaged in consultations, as applicable. In the meantime, *CFIA* will continue to enforce the Act and the Regulations and to verify that exported horses are fit to travel and are transported humanely. ...”

**Petition to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food:** November 29, 2022 we also signed Petition e-4190 (Animals). It called “... upon the **Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food** to halt the live export of horses for slaughter, consistent with the Liberal Party of Canada’s 2021 election campaign commitment and the Minister’s December 16, 2021, mandate letter.” This petition was introduced in the *House of Commons*, February 2023. The Federal government has six weeks to respond to it.

**WILDLIFE PROTECTION: BILL C-247, NATIONAL BILL TO BAN FUR FARMS IN CANADA. First Reading on February 8, 2022:** February 25, 2022 we emailed a letter to: **Prime Minister Trudeau; Marie-Claude Bibeau**, Minister of *Agriculture & Agri-Food*; Liberal MP **Jenica Atwin**; NDP MP **Rachel Blaney**; Conservative MP **Michelle Rempel Garner**; Green Party MPs **Elizabeth May** and **Mike Morrice**. We also emailed a thank you to Liberal MP **Nathaniel Erskine-Smith** and sent him a copy of our letter and the names of the politicians we sent it to. [See **ADLC’s Bulletin #200 – FALL/WINTER 2022.**]

We let them know that we wholeheartedly supported Liberal MP **Nathaniel Erskine-Smith’s** new bill to ban fur farming in Canada. We expressed concern about the suffering that millions of fur-bearing animals endure while kept in tiny wire cages on fur farms and ultimately their violent deaths usually by gassing or anal electrocution, as well as the serious public health risks that fur farms pose during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Undercover footage from fur farms has shown animals living in their own filth, performing troubling repetitive behaviours, and self-mutilating due to the stress of intensive confinement. We hoped they would make the ethical choice to support this legislation to ban fur farms in Canada.

May 16 we received a reply from **Tom Rosser**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Market and Industry Services Branch, on behalf of the Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food*, **Marie-Claude Bibeau**. He pointed out that *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada* does not have the legislated authority to ban fur farming, and that provinces and territories have laws with regard to animal welfare.

**Excerpt:** "... vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 have been developed for mink, one of which is already being distributed under a restricted experimental licence for use in mink in Canada.

With regard to the welfare of farmed mink, the industry has been operating in accordance with the national Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink. An on-farm animal care assessment program was developed in 2018. The resulting Mink Care Assessment Program is used to verify that mink farms across the country are consistent with the Code of Practice. ..."

**July 14, 2022 response from NDP MP Rachael Blaney:** "... New Democrats and I share your concerns. We have long been strong advocates of the ethical treatment of all animals and an equal opponent of cruel practices and the vanity fur business. ..."

I am in favour of phasing out these anachronistic and unnecessary businesses and assisting them in their transition to a healthier and more, ethical, productive enterprise. ..."

**BAN CRUEL FACTORY-FUR FARMS IN QUEBEC:** In a September 29, 2022 email from the **Montreal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**, Montreal, Quebec, they were making this a Quebec election issue. Even though the election was over, October 21, 2022 we still sent a letter to: Quebec Premier **François Legault**; **Geneviève Gullbault**, Deputy Premier; **Pierre Fitzgibbon**, Minister of *Economy and Innovation*; **Benoit Charette**, Minister of *Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks*; and **André Lamontagne**, Minister of *Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*.

Given the threat to public health<sup>1</sup> and wildlife, the environment<sup>2</sup>, and the immense suffering of the animals in this outdated, cruel industry that the majority of Quebecers and the rest of Canada are opposed to, we hoped these politicians would do the right thing and swiftly shut down these inhumane factory-fur farms permanently in Quebec.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>COVID-19 has been spread through intensive mink farming with the animals and workers getting sick on these cruel farms (e.g. British Columbia). Transmission to wildlife is also a possible threat.

<sup>2</sup>Fur production threatens the soil, land use, water quality, marine life and wildlife. From the large amounts of feed needed for the animals, to manure run-off from the fur farms, to toxic chemicals used in pelt processing, energy use, as well as millions of taxpayers' money being used to keep this industry viable are all good reasons to instead spend that money on transitioning factory-fur farmers to non-animal-exploitive, environmentally-friendly businesses.

**SENSELESS COYOTE KILLING CONTEST NEAR BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO, IN FEBRUARY:** March 10, 2022 we emailed **Greg Rickford**, Ontario's Minister of *Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry*. A similar letter was emailed to: **Lucille Collard**, Liberal MPP (Ottawa/Vanier); **Stephen Blais**, Liberal MPP (Orleans); **Joel Harden**, NDP MPP (Ottawa Centre); **John Fraser**, Liberal MPP (Ottawa South); **Jeremy Roberts**, PC MPP (Ottawa West – Nepean). No replies. [See **ADLC's** Bulletin #200 – FALL/WINTER 2022.]

For a few years, Cheshers Outdoor Store, a Belleville area hunting outfitter store, has been holding an annual coyote hunting contest offering cash and prizes to hunters. This violates section 11 of the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. To our knowledge, "... neither the Minister nor the Store have indicated that written authorizations have been issued to the Store and contest participants as required by section 11 of the Act ..."<sup>1</sup>

We urged action be taken to ensure that the *Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry* is investigating and enforcing section 11 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. These barbaric hunting contests need to STOP.

---

<sup>1</sup>"Lawsuit slams government for allowing coyote hunting contest", **The Fur-Bearers**, North Vancouver, BC, email dated February 24, 2022.

December 14, 2022 **Animal Justice**, Toronto, ON, along with **The Fur-Bearers**, North Vancouver, BC, and **Coyote Watch Canada**, St. Davids, ON, took the Ontario Government to court over illegal hunting contests. **Animal Justice** was encouraging the public to send emails to the Ontario Minister of *Natural Resources* asking him to take action against illegal hunting contests (<https://animaljustice.ca/blog/ontario-coyote-killing-contest>). Cheshers Outdoor Store, Belleville, Ontario, held such contests. January 3, 2023 we again emailed a letter to **Graydon Smith**, Minister of *Natural Resources and Forestry*. A slightly different letter was emailed to: **John Yakabuski**, PC MPP, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the *Environment*,

*Conservation & Parks*; **Lisa M. Thompson**, PC MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs; **Michael S. Kerzner**, PC MPP, Solicitor General; **Mike Schreiner**, Green Party MPP; **Stephen Blais** (Liberal MPP – Orleans); **Lucille Collard** (Liberal MPP – Ottawa-Vanier); **John Fraser** (Liberal MPP – Ottawa South); **Joel Harden** (NDP MPP – Ottawa Centre); and January 17, 2023 to **Todd Smith** (PC MPP – Belleville). [See **ADLC's** Bulletin #201 – SPRING/SUMMER 2023.] Once again, we urged action be taken to ensure that the Ministry is investigating and enforcing section 11 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

**BC'S EXTENDED 5-YEAR PLAN/WAR ON WOLVES:** We were alerted to this by a November 9, 2022 email from **The Fur-Bearers**, North Vancouver, BC. December 8, 2022 we emailed a letter to British Columbia's: **Premier Eby**; **Deputy Premier Mike Farnworth**; **Katrine Conroy**, Minister of Forests; **George Heyman**, Minister of the *Environment & Climate Change Strategy*; and **Josie Osborne**, Minister of *Land, Water & Resource Stewardship*.

Human activity such as industrial, oil and gas development, logging, snowmobiling, etc are disrupting and affecting the caribous' habitat resulting in their decline. As well, these human activities have negative impacts on the ecosystems. We asked for a reduction, or better yet, a complete stop to the destructive human activities that are impacting the endangered caribou, other wildlife, and our environment.

Hunting down and shooting wolves and their pups from helicopters is inhumane. Rather than spending millions of dollars on unethical and unscientific wolf culls, which the *BC government* plans to continue doing for another five years, instead use that money to better protect the environment that the flora and fauna depend on.

We want the caribou protected but humans are the primary problem -- let's clean up OUR own act.

**GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FOOT GUARDS' BEAR SKIN HATS:** July 12, 2022 we emailed Canada's **Governor General Mary Simon**. In 2022, the **Governor General's** ceremonial foot guards were celebrating 150 years of service for Canada. We wished we could also be celebrating the phasing out of the foot guards' bear skin hats. One to two Canadian black bears were killed to make each hat worn. We encouraged the **Governor General** to be the first **Governor General** to switch to a more acceptable, non-animal, cruelty-free alternative to animal fur. No response to our concerns was received.

**THE PROBLEM WITH ZOOS IN ONTARIO:** In an October 19, 2022 email, **World Animal Protection**, Toronto, Ontario, provided information (<https://actnow.worldanimalprotection.ca/page/112938/action/1?ea.tr...>) encouraging letters be sent to the Ontario Solicitor General, **Minister Michael Kerzner**, which we did on October 31, 2022.

Over one thousand wild animals are kept in Ontario zoos. Ontario remains the only province that does not require zoos to be licensed, or to have a permit to open a zoo that may house dangerous exotic animals. Also, there are no comprehensive zoo standards that must be adhered to in regard to protecting animals as well as public safety (Animals have escaped putting the animals and the public at risk. Also, some zoos encourage the public to interact with these animals.). This leaves authorities completely unable to shut down a bad zoo.

Animal enclosures are not designed to meet the needs of specific species (i.e. too small, barren, inappropriate for the species kept there, etc.). We asked the Solicitor General to make the time to read the recent **"Nothing new at the zoo"** Ontario report prepared by **World Animal Protection**, Toronto, Ontario. Zoos in the report do not seem to be complying with existing animal welfare regulations.

It should be mandatory for all provincial zoos to be monitored and regulated. Zoos that are monitored and regulated must transition into an animal sanctuary model where the needs of animals are put first. We urged him to ensure that unregulated zoos are shut down.

**A CANADIAN WEST COAST SEA LION AND SEAL HUNT??:** From **LIFEFORCE**, Vancouver, BC, January 1, 2023, <https://www.change.org/p/say-no-to-a-west-coast-seal-and-sea-lion-slaughter>: "... A First Nations group with connections to the fishing industry is lobbying the *Canadian Government* to permit a West Coast Sea Lion and Seal Hunt! 'The Pacific Balance Pinniped Society (PBPS)' wants to start a new industry to market the unsafe meat for 'high end' restaurants in North America, Europe and Asia and for pet food! They also want to sell fur and blubber oil. There is a ban on seal-based products in Europe and other countries that includes meat, boots, and coats from the East Coast Seal Hunt. ..."

**LIFEFORCE** was encouraging individuals to write to their Federal Members of Parliament and to British Columbia Members of Provincial Parliament. January 12, 2023, we signed their Change.org petition to: **Prime Minister Trudeau**; **MP Steven Guilbeault**, *Environment and Climate Change Minister*; **MP Joyce Murray**, *Fisheries and Oceans Minister*; **MP Gord Johns**; **MP Rachel Blaney**; **David Eby**, BC's Premier; **BC MLA Lana Popham**; **BC MLA Sonia Furstenuau**.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER BUSINESS, GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT:**

General discussion relating to Business Arising from the Committee Reports and other animal-related issues and **ADLC** issues followed. MOTION: The meeting be adjourned at 2:47 pm. **MOVED** by J. Bélair. **SECONDED** by R. Bélair. **CARRIED** with no objections.

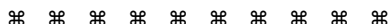


**MEMBERS:** Is your membership renewal due? Please check your card, and renew!  
We regret that financial considerations do not allow us to continue mailing bulletins to non-members.

To be a member in good standing, for the purpose of voting, the individual is required to have paid the membership fee at least six months prior to the date of the vote being taken. If any annual membership fee is not paid within four months of their renewal date, the individual shall automatically cease to be a member.

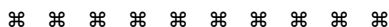
**ADLC'S WEBSITE:** Our sincere thanks to Brenda Campbell who has spent a great deal of time redesigning and updating our National Capital FreeNet website. We invite you to check it out at: <https://animal-defence.ncf.ca/>.

**ADLC'S FACEBOOK PAGE:** We now have a FACEBOOK page thanks to Brenda Campbell: [www.facebook.com/groups/AnimalDefenceLeagueofCanada](http://www.facebook.com/groups/AnimalDefenceLeagueofCanada).



**IN MEMORIAM**

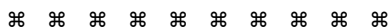
We received a bequest from the Estate of Yvonne Marie Mitchell, Owen Sound, Ontario. The compassion and generosity of such bequests provides much needed support for our efforts on behalf of the animals. It is greatly appreciated.



**BEQUESTS:** Persons wishing to help the work of the **League** could put this provision in their wills: "I bequeath to the **Animal Defence League of Canada**, Ottawa, Ontario, \_\_\_ % of the residue of my Estate to be applicable to the general purposes of the organization." Another way of wording this could be: "I bequeath to the **Animal Defence League of Canada**, Ottawa, Ontario, \_\_\_ % of the residue of my Estate to be applicable to the Spay/Neuter Fund, [and/or] \_\_\_ % of the residue of my Estate to be applicable to the Animals in Distress Fund, [and/or] \_\_\_ % of the residue of my Estate to be applicable to the Alternative Research Fund, [and/or] \_\_\_ % of the residue of my Estate to be applicable to the general purposes of the organization."

**DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM:** When donations in memory are sent to the **League**, if the donor would like it mentioned in our bulletin that they (donor's name) gave a donation in memory of (name of person or animal), we will publish this in our news bulletin. We will not automatically do this for In Memoriam donations; it must be requested in writing. The family of the deceased will be notified of your In Memoriam donation to the **League**.

**DONATIONS IN HONOUR OF ...:** When donations to honour someone are sent to the **League**, we will notify the honouree of your donation.



**RAISE MEDIA SENSITIVITY TO ANIMAL ISSUES:** Keep near your phone a list of TV and radio station phone numbers and addresses. When something bad for animals is on the air, phone in your protest immediately; follow up with a letter or e-mail.

Now that you have finished reading this Bulletin, why not pass it on to a friend!!

**THE ADLC DOES NOT MAKE ITS MEMBERSHIP LIST  
AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND DONATIONS ENABLE ADLC TO  
CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE ANIMALS.**

-----

**ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**P.O. Box 3880, Stn. C, Ottawa, Ont., K1Y 4M5 (613)233-6117**  
**(We are a non-profit organization.)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address if you would like paperless bulletins in the future: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** Life \$75.00  
Annual \$15.00  
Senior \$ 5.00  
Student \$ 5.00

**Donation:** General \_\_\_\_\_  
Spay/Neuter Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
Animals in Distress Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternative Research Fund \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE** – As we are NOT a registered charity, we cannot issue receipts for income tax purposes.  
( ) Mail me an acknowledgement receipt ( ) Save the postage, don't send me a receipt

**To request information flyers and stickers, please see page 16.**

Please send me:

- ☐ **ADLC** Vegan Cookbook – limit of 3 per address (Cost to **ADLC**: \$2.60 each.)
- ☐ Vegetarian Option Paper ☐ Live Well Booklet
- ☐ List of Hidden & Obvious Animal Derived Products & By-products
- ☐ The Pig Paper ☐ Intensive Poultry Farming
- ☐ **ADLC** Comments on the DRAFT Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs
- ☐ rBGH information package ☐ Rethink the Way We Live ...
- ☐ The Meat Industry's Cover-Up: Canada's Most Censored Story?
- ☐ Farming and Animal Rights ☐ Genetic Engineering and the Threat to Farm Animals
- ☐ Working for Animal Rights on Lobbying and Ethics
- ☐ Animal Rights Versus Human Rights *The inherent right of all living beings to freedom from oppression*
- ☐ Bookmark: one side promotes **ADLC's** Alternative Research Fund, the other side promotes Spay/Neutering
- ☐ Discussion Paper on the Use of Animals in [Biomedical] Research
- ☐ Cosmetics testing information package and testing protest postcards
- ☐ Testing Protest Postcards
- ☐ Paper on Pharmaceuticals and Vivisection ☐ Ethical Biomedical Research
- ☐ Clear the Cages Plan information package
- ☐ Clear the Cages/Alternative Research Fund Postcards
- ☐ ARF compassion button ☐ Brief on Pound Seizure, June 1983
- ☐ Brief RE: Disposal of Primate Colony (Cost to **ADLC**: \$3.32 each.)
- ☐ ~~PMU~~ Non-Animal-Using Hormone Replacement Therapy flyer [Bio-identical Progesterone]
- ☐ Humane Alternatives to Dissection Package
- ☐ Xenotransplantation: **ADLC** Opposes Animal-to-Human Organ Transplants
- ☐ Circus Animals flyer ☐ Circus Colouring Book
- ☐ The Wolf Paper ☐ Bullfighting Paper
- ☐ Angling – The Neglected Bloodsport, and Fish Farming
- ☐ Policy Statement: Native People and the Fur Trade ☐ Trapping flyer
- ☐ Wildlife Mismanagement package ☐ Anti-trapping posters
- ☐ Groundhog/Gopher Killingfest ☐ Pigeons in Cities flyer
- ☐ Support for the **Wild Bird Care Centre**, Nepean/Ottawa, Ontario, City Hall Presentation
- ☐ Ottawa's Proposed Animal Care and Control By-Law, City Hall Presentation
- ☐ Cat Control & the Community Brief ☐ Spay/Neuter Brief to Ottawa City Hall - 2006
- ☐ Why You Should Spay/Neuter Your Cat or Dog
- ☐ Position Statement: Euthanasia and Spay/Neutering of Cats and Dogs
- ☐ Feral Cat Information
- ☐ **ADLC** Letter to BC Municipality of North Cowichan re Feral/Unwanted Cats
- ☐ Proposed Bylaw Concerning Companion Animals and Other Animals Kept Outside
- ☐ Position Paper on Pet Shops ☐ Puppy Mill package
- ☐ All Animals Need Legal Protection (Cost to **ADLC**: \$2.00 each.)
- ☐ **ADLC** Submission re: Ontario Bill 50, Provincial Animal Welfare Act, 2008
- ☐ Children Helping Animals Through Understanding ☐ I CARE button

**DECALS: (Please don't place stickers on public property or on other people's property.)**

- ☐ Food Animals ☐ Murder of Animals ☐ Are You Really that Hungry?
- ☐ LOBSTER Boiled Alive Served Dead Join the Vegetarians
- ☐ WARNING: Animal flesh can be dangerous to your health Join the Vegetarians



- ( ) BE KIND TO ANIMALS DON'T EAT THEM Join the Vegetarians
- ( ) Thank You for Not Wearing Fur ( ) What Price Did They Pay for Your Fur Coat?
- ( ) Furs are Beautiful ONLY on Animals – bumper sticker
- ( ) "SAVE THE ANIMALS!" "DON'T BUY FUR!" – set of 2 bumper stickers
- ( ) EMERGENCY "Animals to Rescue" Window Decal (To alert rescuers in emergencies that animals are inside.) (Cost to **ADLC** to produce the EMERGENCY decal - .80 cents each.)
- ( ) SPAY/NEUTER = Less cats/dogs having to be destroyed ( ) Spay/Neuter
- ( ) TOO MANY CATS AND DOGS – NOT ENOUGH HOMES  
SPAY/NEUTER YOUR CAT AND DOG (Cost to **ADLC** - .55 cents per bumper sticker.)

**Have your cats and dogs spayed or neutered. This reduces the number of cats and dogs being euthanized or dying on the streets because there aren't enough homes for them. This will HELP stop the killing.**