

ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA

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

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Tel: (613)233-6117
ADLC Website: <https://animal-defence.ncf.ca/>

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PETITION e-6589 (Animals) - Ban Fur Farming: On July 10, 2025 we signed this petition, as well as on January 17, 2025 we signed a very similar petition e-5269.

"Whereas:

- Fur farming poses a public health risk to Canadians;
- Fur-farmed animals can carry high-risk zoonotic diseases including coronaviruses and influenza;
- The intensive breeding and captivity of fur-bearing animal species increases the risk of zoonotic disease transmission between humans and animals;
- British Columbia banned mink farming due to its public health risk;
- Infectious disease specialists in Canada identified fur farming as a hazardous practice and have called on the *Government of Canada* to end fur farming;
- The extreme confinement of wildlife on fur farms causes significant pain and suffering to animals;
- Wolves, bobcats, foxes, lynx, chinchillas, and minks are species known to be commercially farmed for their fur in Canada, and the National Farm Animal Care Council has only developed Codes of Practice for the farming of minks and foxes;
- The federal government is responsible for prohibiting animal suffering and protecting public health and the environment;
- Industrial fur farming is incongruent with the values and traditions of many First Nations;
- Canada is one of the few remaining countries in the world where fur farming is still legal and has active fur farms (over twenty countries have banned fur farming);
- Fur farming is a socially unacceptable practice as it commercializes Canadian wildlife for non-essential, luxury fashion fur products that are sold on international markets; and
- Public opinion surveys reinforce that most Canadians overwhelmingly support a nationwide prohibition on fur farming;

We, the undersigned, **citizens of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to prohibit the practice of fur farming for all species of animals."

Response from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Market and Industry Services Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, February 4, 2025 to the letter we had sent to the Prime Minister regarding fur farming near the end of October 2024. It was disappointing. He talks about the Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals. "... In addition to the Code, most livestock and poultry sectors have implemented on-farm animal care assessment programs, which are based on the requirements of the Code. ...

These Codes are continually reviewed (on a 5-year cycle) and renewed (every 10 years) based on new developments in animal welfare research, changing societal expectations and new and innovative technologies.

In addition to federal legislation specific to humane transportation and slaughter, each of the provinces maintains legislation related to animal protection, including companion and farm animals. ..."

He mentions national guidance on preventing and responding to SARS-CoV-2 infections in farmed mink, and that the COVID-19 pandemic was driven by human-to-human transmission. "... the CFIA [*Canadian Food Inspection Agency*] continues to provide updates to the World Organisation for Animal Health on outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 in animals as part of the *Government of Canada's* international obligations. ..."

"WILL OTTAWA RESIDENTS EVER GET TO SEE A PROGRESSIVE WILDLIFE STRATEGY?": Article courtesy of the **Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre**, Ottawa, ON, July 10, 2025: "The **Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre (OCWC)** has worked for many years, pressuring the city of Ottawa to adopt modern wildlife policies.

It follows decades of inhumane practices by the city where 150 beavers are killed each year, where, in 2023, a young bear was shot by police and where, the year before, coyotes were trapped and killed. One coyote was seen dragging a leg-hold trap for days and another found in a horrifically cruel neck snare.

The public had had enough. Prompted by groups like our **Centre**, the city held several public information sessions and surveys, receiving over 800 comments from people advocating for progressive approaches to human-wildlife conflicts, identifying the welfare of the animal as the highest priority and urging the elimination of lethal wildlife management practices.

It resulted in Ottawa councillors promising a 'Wildlife Strategy that reflects modern-day practices to coexist with wildlife in our city'. A Joint Meeting of the Environment and Climate Change and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees was held in June 2024 to consider a staff report on the revised Wildlife Strategy.

The staff report was largely disappointing but, thankfully, there were several significant and encouraging changes made by councillors, in opposition to the staff recommendations: 1) to use modern flow device technology as an alternative to trapping to mitigate conflicts, keeping beavers and their important ecological services on the landscape 2) an advisory committee/working group to assist the city in delivering a modern Wildlife Strategy.

However, a year later, there has been no information forthcoming from staff on implementing the changes with respect to beavers. More concerning is that staff have chosen to ignore the amended motion from councillors 'to review the membership, scope and objectives of the Working Group', instead maintaining the restricted scope to 'information, outreach and education', which takes the key issues of concern to the public, like beaver management, the large mammal protocol, coyote response, protection of wildlife during construction, off the table. It is an example of the control exerted by staff and their unwillingness to work with the community.

Cruel Relocation of Kanata Bear

A stark example of why Ottawa desperately needs a Wildlife Strategy that is humane and transparent was the unwarranted relocation of a young black bear this past spring. Despite significant rural habitat in this area where black bears are often seen, this bear was tranquilized and taken to unfamiliar territory 200 km away, at a site chosen by the Ontario *Ministry of Natural Resources* where, not surprisingly, the spring bear hunt was underway.

The city of Ottawa's disingenuous press release that began with 'A young bear is off on a new adventure' prompted the **OCWC** to challenge the city's dishonest 'Walt Disney' spin by its own Opinion Piece <https://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/cruel-to-relocate-wildlife>."

GASSING OF GEESE: An *In Defense of Animals* (San Rafael, CA) April 28, 2025 email was encouraging letters be sent to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) opposing their approval of this method of euthanasia. We personalized their sample letter, and May 12 we emailed it to the AVMA through *In Defense of Animals'* web page.

RE: The Use of CO₂ Gas to Euthanize Geese Causes Them Prolonged Suffering and Distress.

We urge the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to reevaluate and remove its approval of carbon dioxide (CO₂) gassing as a humane method of killing geese (as well as chickens and pigs).

Geese are frequently subjected to lethal roundups across the United States, particularly during their molting season when they are flightless and vulnerable. A common method used in these roundups involves placing geese in mobile gas chambers and exposing them to CO₂. While this method may be convenient and widely available, its use raises serious ethical concerns and lacks sufficient scientific support to be considered humane.

Geese possess a unique physiological ability to hold their breath for extended periods, a trait that complicates the CO₂ killing process. Rather than quickly losing consciousness, geese often remain conscious for minutes while experiencing air hunger — an intense, distressing urge to breathe caused by elevated levels of CO₂ in the blood (hypercapnia). This is accompanied by respiratory discomfort and observable signs of distress such as gasping, head shaking, and escape behaviors.

Several studies have documented these distress responses. Birds killed with CO₂ have exhibited more pronounced signs of suffering than those killed with other agents (Tidemann & King, 2009). CO₂ exposure has also been shown to trigger elevated stress hormone levels in birds (Gurung et al., 2018). Despite these findings, the specific effects of CO₂ on geese remain under-researched, and experts continue to call for further investigation before deeming the method appropriate.

The AVMA's continued approval of CO₂ gassing contributes to the perception that it is an acceptable and ethical practice. However, the current body of evidence does not support that conclusion. Until comprehensive research demonstrates that CO₂ exposure does not cause prolonged distress or suffering in geese, this method should not be listed as humane.

Please review the available science and reconsider your position on the use of carbon dioxide for killing geese (or any other bird or animal). Removing this method from your list of approved practices would reflect a commitment to evidence-based policy and high standards of animal care. Instead, give your approval to use alternative methods to deal with geese such as relocation, hazing and habitat modification through riparian buffers that deter geese without harming them, egg addling, etc.

We look forward to hearing from you concerning your continued approval of the use of CO₂ as a method to cruelly and inhumanely deal with the euthanasia of any bird or animal.

CANADA GEESE SAFER IN MICHIGAN FOR THE TIME BEING: In an April 28, 2025 email from *In Defense of Animals* they had mentioned they had been trying to stop the gassing of geese in Michigan. October 2024 the state's *Natural Resources Commission* had approved a *USDA* contract to kill geese using carbon dioxide gas. Gassing is a method approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) as being a humane method of killing geese. May 16, 2025 some good news from *In Defense of Animals*: "... the Michigan *Department of Natural Resources (DNR)* has announced it will pause its controversial goose-killing program and will not issue any permits for the carbon dioxide gassing of geese this year. ...

Pausing this program sets an important precedent by showing that there's a better way to handle conflicts with wild animals. Michigan's decision has the chance to inspire more humane, thoughtful approaches across the country, not just for geese but for all wild animals. ..."

US ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: A May 6, 2025 email from the *Endangered Species Coalition*, Washington, DC, notified us that there was a May 19 deadline to submit comments opposing **President Trump's** revision of their Endangered Species Act. May 15, 2025 our letter was emailed through the *Endangered Species Coalition* web page to the **Trump** administration.

RE: The Endangered Species Act – Habitat Destruction is Indeed Harmful.

Please STOP and think about the harmful consequences to the flora and fauna that has already been done, and the additional damage that will be done, by allowing logging, drilling, construction, etc, without reviewing the impact it will have on the habitat of endangered and threatened species, and those that may become new additions to the protected wildlife list, and also the effects on humans.

Once the protected wildlife is close to extinction, and the habitat they call home is becoming threatened or already damaged, it can take a very long time for both to recover – and sometimes it is too late.

We should be doing everything we can to save the planet and all that depend on it, and not endlessly exploiting and destroying it.

Please give us hope. Please don't recklessly allow the destruction of habitat and not seriously think that it is not harmful and not impacting us all – because it is, and it will even more if we do not stop this destructive thinking and behaviour. Keep wildlife habitat protections in place.

Will you support wildlife habitat protection? We urge you to not weaken it for the benefit of us all.

PS: The endangered Monarch butterflies do travel to Ottawa, and it would be a big loss if these pollinators' habitats are wiped out due to the destruction and/or damage that might take place should a change be made to the Endangered Species Act that would allow habitat destruction to not be considered as "harm".

ONTARIO'S FORD GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED WAR ON WILDLIFE: Ontario's Bill S-5 – Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025: May 7, 2025 we received information from the **Wildlands League**, Toronto, ON. We used their sample letter to create a slightly different version. This issue is very similar to what is happening in the US – so we thought we should also criticize it. May 16, 2025 our letter was emailed to 26 NDP MPPs, 1 Independent MPP, 2 Green Party MPPs and 13 Liberal MPPs. One MPP was again emailed May 22 due to an incorrect email address.

RE: Bill 5 Will Repeal the Endangered Species Act Entirely.

We strongly oppose Bill 5 that the **Ford** government has introduced, and we hope you are opposed too. This irresponsible and dangerous power grab by the **Ford** government would gut protections for vulnerable wildlife, fast track mining and development projects, trample Indigenous rights, silence local voices and create law-free zones for trusted proponents or areas as designated by cabinet.

Wildlife in Ontario is under attack by the **Ontario Government**. Examples: The outrageous September 2023 raid on a wildlife rehabilitation facility in Peterborough and the seizure of baby animals has been widely condemned; allowing illegal wildlife hunting contests -- conservation officers have not swooped down and stopped/charged participating hunters or the outfitter store owner who has been holding annual illegal hunting contests in the Belleville area; and more recently, the expansion of "Train and Trial" dog hunting pens. Coyotes, foxes, and rabbits are captured from the wild, confined in fenced-in areas, and used as live bait. Dogs not only learn to track the animals—they frequently attack, injure, and even kill these terrorized, trapped wild animals. Dogs are often injured during these fights as well. We do not understand how the **Ford** government can justify this animal brutality.

Repealing the Endangered Species Act and replacing it with a watered-down version will fail to protect and recover species at risk. Here are several of the problems we see with the new proposed Act: it isn't set up to protect and recover species; it eschews science; it inserts economics into the new purpose and protection and recovery objectives are out. It redefines habitat to narrowly cover areas like dens and nests and makes the adding and removing of species discretionary and allows activities to go ahead as long as they are registered.

We support efficiencies, robust environmental laws, transparency and holding proponents to account to the highest standards; not giving them free rein. It is reckless and irresponsible to use the threat of **Trump** tariffs as a cover to trample Indigenous rights, sacrifice the environment and silence local voices.

Once the protected wildlife is close to extinction, and the habitat they call home is becoming threatened or already damaged, it can take a very long time for both to recover – and sometimes it is too late. We should be doing everything we can to save the planet and all that depend on it, and not endlessly exploiting and destroying it.

We hope you will not support Bill 5, and that you will take the time to respond to our concerns.

May 16, 2025 NDP MPP McKenny wrote: "... The bill is being advertised as a 'A One Project, One Process' approval model which will streamline the approvals into one process, with a Dedicated Team to help things be more efficient. If this was the entire bill, we would be in complete alignment, as the ONDP believes in the importance of responsible mining. Unfortunately, there's a lot more details in this 229-page bill that could cause a lot of harm to our province, and we cannot agree with those details.

These worrisome details include a watered-down version of the Endangered Species Act putting our animals and environment at risk. ..."

May 19 reply from the office of NDP MPP Alexa Gilmour: "... **Alexa** and the NDP share your deep concerns about this bill, which poses a serious threat to Ontario's environmental protections, labour laws, and local bylaws. ...

There is so much at stake. Be assured, **Alexa** and the NDP are not giving up this fight. ..."

NDP MPP Wong-Tam's May 20 reply by staff: "... These worrisome details include weakening the *Endangered Species Act*, putting our animals and environment at risk. It contains exemptions from public notice and consultations around Ontario Place. It also exempts the Dresden landfill project specifically from the Environmental Assessment Act – a project headed by a

company affiliated with prominent donors to Doug Ford and the PC Party. Bill 5 also allows for the creation of Special Economic Zones where local by-laws or provincial legislation can be amended or ignored, essentially by allowing the use of 'cheat codes' by the government to do whatever they want. No one, or even the government, should be above the law. ...

The Ontario NDP supports Indigenous treaty rights, looks to defend endangered species, and keep our environment protected while supporting economic growth and development. We will vote against Bill 5 in the legislature, condemn its devastating consequences, and advocate for the vulnerable groups affected. ..."

May 20, 2025 the office of NDP MPP Pasma's response was similar to that of MPP McKenny.

May 21, 2025 Liberal MPP Fraser's staff wrote: "... The Ontario Liberal Caucus strongly opposes Bill 5. While the government claims this legislation will support economic growth, it opens the door to unchecked development, weakens public transparency, and undermines vital safeguards Ontarians rely on. Like you, we are deeply concerned about the wide-ranging and harmful implications of this bill, which affects critical areas such as environmental protection and conservation, Indigenous consultation and treaty obligations, municipal decision-making, cultural heritage, and public oversight.

... Please know that we are with you in this fight for a more democratic Ontario. ..."

May 26, 2025 email from Liberal MPP McMahon: "... Bill 5 ... would dramatically narrow the definition of habitat; restrict species that are eligible for Provincial protection; and imbue the Government with discretionary power to override and ignore scientific evidence, public consultation, environmental assessments, and Indigenous rights as they apply to mining, species at risk, developments, and waste disposal. ..."

MPP McMahon participated in the Public Hearing on May 22.

May 28, 2025 Green Party MPP Aislinn Clancy's office replied: "... **Aislinn** and the team share your concerns about this overreach in the name of economic growth – particularly when it threatens our environment and disregards Indigenous consent.

A few weeks ago, **Aislinn** delivered a statement at Queen's Park condemning Bill 5 and urging the government to safeguard Ontario's delicate ecosystems. ...

This week, she debated against the Bill in the House, pushing back against this legislation, and also spoke at a rally on the front lawn of Queen's Park. ..."

May 29, 2025 a reply from Liberal MPP Smyth: "... We are especially troubled by the scale and speed of this omnibus bill, which centralizes power in Cabinet, strips away essential checks and balances, and removes meaningful opportunities for public input. This approach is not only undemocratic, but it also threatens long-term harm to Ontario's ecosystems, communities, and future generations. ..."

May 30, we heard from Independent MPP Brady. She had concerns about Bill 5 and speaks out against it every chance she gets. She will be voting against Bill 5.

June 3 reply from the office of NDP MPP Lennox: "... the NDP caucus have been consistent in our opposition to motion and are continuing to advocate against it using all tools available, both in the legislature and in committee. ...

If you would like to help us, please consider signing this petition against Bill 5 [HERE](#). ..."

Here is the petition *ADLC* signed on June 6, 2025: We also added a COMMENT.

"Stop Bill 5

URGENT: Protect Ontario's Communities and Environment!

Bill 5 would eliminate Ontario's Endangered Species Act, removing vital protections for at-risk plants and animals.

Supporters claim it will help the economy, but in reality, it threatens wildlife and echoes the Greenbelt controversy—where government decisions benefited select groups instead of addressing real crises.

The bill also grants the Premier and Cabinet unchecked power to create Special Economic Zones, bypassing environmental protections, Indigenous rights, and public input.

It would fast-track mining and infrastructure projects at the cost of our land, water, and democracy.

With the final vote coming soon, we must act NOW to demand accountability and safeguard Ontario's future! ...

[ADLC's ADDED COMMENT:] Wildlife in Ontario is under attack by the *Ontario Government*. Once the protected wildlife is close to extinction, and the habitat they call home is becoming threatened or already damaged, it can take a very long time for both to recover – and sometimes it is too late. We should be doing everything we can to save the planet and all that depend on it, and not endlessly exploiting and destroying it.”

Days after signing the petition, we found out that Bill 5 had been passed on June 4, 2025. Its approval is facing court challenges.

June 18, 2025 Liberal MPP Hsu wrote: “... I am committed to fighting for the repeal of the Conservation Authorities Act, Planning Act, Environmental Assessment Act and Endangered Species Act. The **Ford** government continues to wreck endangered species and environmental protections. We need to strengthen the powers of Ontario’s Conservation Authorities to provide them with the tools and resources needed for these protections.

On top of this, I will continue to hold the **Ford** government accountable for protecting the Greenbelt and other natural areas. ... We need to continue to advocate for protecting our environment and overall public well-being. ...”

July 10, 2025 a very supportive reply from Liberal **MPP Fairclough** letting us know she has spoken out against this legislation.

PLANT-CENTRIC PLEDGE: A petition link received March 18, 2025 from the *Humane World for Animals* (Headquarters in Washington, DC with a location in Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC) was asking supporters to “**Speak up for animals suffering on factory farms** More than 94.9 billion farmed animals are kept and killed for food each year ...”

PLEDGE: “We need to prevent the suffering of animals on factory farms and protect the world around us. I urge world leaders to support and drive a transition toward a more resilient and more plant-centric food system.”

ANIMAL CRUELTY AT BC'S JOHNSTON MEATS' SLAUGHTERHOUSE: Canadian Laws and Codes of Practice are NOT Working Well on Behalf of the Animals. April 11, 2025 the letter below was individually emailed to **BC Premier Eby** and to **BC Agriculture and Food Minister Popham**. We used most of the sample letter provided in a March 6, 2025 email from the *Vancouver Humane Society*, Vancouver, BC.

RE: Shocking Footage of Animal Cruelty at Johnston Meats' Slaughterhouse. Chilliwack, BC.

Yet another undercover investigation in B.C. that has exposed disturbing treatment of farmed animals. The footage, taken by a whistleblower, is alleged to be from Johnston's Meats, a Chilliwack-based pig slaughterhouse. It shows terrified pigs being inhumanely handled, improperly stunned, and still conscious when their necks are cut and they are hung upside down to bleed out. It's truly horrifying and is yet another example of serious and systemic issues across B.C.'s animal agriculture industry. In the last decade, near-annual investigations at B.C. farms and slaughterhouses have revealed recurring animal welfare problems. WHY IS THIS HAPPENING??? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT???

We care about the humane treatment and well-being of all animals, and strongly encourage you to urgently and quickly take action on this matter. This company must be held accountable for their actions and the B.C. government must do more to address long-standing issues across the industry.

We understand that the B.C. government has conducted a review of its farmed animal welfare framework and that a committee has shared recommendations with the *Ministry of Agriculture*. We urge you to prioritize implementing policies and practices that will result in meaningful change for farmed animals.¹

Specifically, we urge you to ensure that regulations and standards are based on the best available animal welfare science and that they are government-mandated and proactively enforced. It's crucial that oversight and enforcement measures include consistent video surveillance monitoring and unannounced inspections and audits, which are made publicly available. This is necessary for ensuring public trust and transparency. Appropriate deterrents and penalties are also necessary to prevent cruelty in the first place and to provide accountability.

Please prioritize this important animal welfare issue and take urgent action to protect some of our society's most vulnerable animals. We look forward to hearing back from you about this crucial matter.

¹"Speak up for animals suffering on factory farms", "More than 94.9 billion farmed animals are kept and killed for food each year ...". Source: **Humane World for Animals**, Washington, DC and Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC, email, March 18, 2025.

May 2, 2025 the Premier's office responded that the *Ministry of Agriculture and Food* had confirmed they would follow up with us.

May 6, 2025 we received a reply from the Executive Director, Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch, BC's *Ministry of Agriculture and Food*. Excerpt: "... In relation to the allegations of inhumane animal treatment at the Chilliwack location of Johnston's Packers Ltd, AF's Meat Inspection Program (MIP) conducted a review of the approximately 850 video files submitted by **Animal Justice**, reviewed Johnston's Packers Ltd's inspection records and interviewed relevant B.C. government inspectors. The MIP concluded that most of the original claims of animal welfare violations were not supported. However, the MIP did identify some areas of concern.

Actions taken in response to these concerns (by Johnston's Packers Ltd and the MIP) included reducing production choke points, providing additional training in stunning techniques for plant personnel, and increasing oversight of the slaughter process by MIP inspectors. Many of these actions were taken over several weeks. In addition, a Prohibition Notice under Section 11(2) of the *Food Safety Act* was issued to Johnston Packers Ltd regarding use of electric prods and handling of animals. ..."

PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDERS (PBR): Once again, this traveling show was coming to Ottawa on June 14. May 29, 2025 we became aware that the **Ottawa Humane Society (OHS)** had started another petition to *Ottawa City Hall* opposing the cruel treatment to animals and passing it off as entertainment. We signed a similar **OHS** petition last year. **ADLC** signed the petition below on June 2.

"A bull bucks in response to distress, triggered by the rider and a flank strap that is tightened before the bull enters the arena. Those who support using animals in bull riding events call the animals 'athletes,' saying they were 'born to buck.'"

A study looking at the disorders of performance-age bucking bulls discovered that **bucking bulls were more likely** than non-bucking bulls **to develop horn and sinus disorders and musculoskeletal disorders** of the vertebral region and pelvic limbs.

Let's show that Ottawa opposes the cruel treatment of animals in bull riding events, like PBR by telling Ottawa's City Council that Ottawa citizens oppose the cruel treatment of animals in indoor stadium bull riding events like PBR and call for a ban of these events in our city limits. ..."

ANIMAL WELFARE AND THE 2025 CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION: A March 1, 2025 email from the **Montreal SPCA**, Montreal, QC, was encouraging letters be sent to federal candidates. They supplied a sample letter which we modified. Our letter was emailed March 14, 2025, and several days afterward, to 2 Green Party MPs and 139 Liberal MPs, 19 NDP MPs and almost all of the Conservative MPs.

RE: Animal Welfare is a Societal Concern.

Please ensure that your party considers animal protection in developing its platform for the upcoming federal election. According to a poll conducted during the last federal election, 70% of Canadians consider animal protection an important issue when deciding whom to vote for.

PRIORITY: Canada must update the Criminal Code provisions on animal cruelty in order to crack down on cases of cruelty and to counter domestic violence. More specifically, Canada must:

- consider animal abuse as an aggravating factor in cases of violence, including sexual offenses and domestic violence;
- criminalize the possession and distribution of online sexual material that includes the assault and sexual exploitation of animals;
- recognize animal abuse as a tool of coercive control, so as to better protect victims.

Pass legislation that recognizes animals as the sentient beings that they are, rather than property.

The close links between human health and that of animals and the environment that we share are now the subject of a broad scientific consensus. In view of this, it is essential that the Canadian government adopt the international One Health approach in order to take this essential interconnection into account in its public policies. 75% of new or emerging infectious diseases in the last decade have originated from animals, primarily wildlife. The illegal trafficking and unregulated trade of wildlife, as well as intensive animal farming, have been identified as the main risk factors for pandemics.

Canada must develop a pandemic prevention strategy that addresses the underlying causes and gradually eliminates high-risk activities that promote the emergence and transmission of zoonotic infectious diseases. To this end, your party should commit to:

- establishing a comprehensive system for collecting data on the legal and illegal trade in wild animals in order to increase Canada's border efficiency in detecting and curbing the illegal and unsustainable import and export of wild animal species;
- banning cruel commercial farming of animals for their fur, an industry that presents a flagrant and unnecessary risk to public health. By intensively raising thousands of mink and foxes, which are highly susceptible to the COVID-19 virus and the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, fur farms can serve as reservoirs for new variants that could mutate, reintegrate the wild animal and human population and seriously endanger public health;
- regulating the conditions under which food animals are factory-farmed, with a view to promoting animal welfare and phasing out the overuse of preventive antibiotics, a practice that fosters antibiotic resistance, kills 5,400 people annually and costs the Canadian economy 1.4 billion dollars each year.

Mandatory video surveillance at industrial livestock factory-farms and at slaughterhouses in Canada is urgently needed. It would help to ensure legal requirements and animal welfare standards are being followed. With 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. 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.

Ban the inhumane live horse exports by air for slaughter for human consumption. The misery these horses are put through is cruel and it needs to stop. They are terrified and may panic, and it puts them at greater risk of injury, illness and sometimes death.

End the use of animals for entertainment purposes such as is on display at rodeos and professional bull riding competitions, traveling circuses, roadside zoos, larger zoos and aquariums that are more profit-driven than concerned about the well-being of the animals they are exploiting. Just because some politicians think these activities are acceptable practices, does not mean they should continue – many of these animals are in distress, get injured, and some die. Such cruel and exploitive use of animals in public encourages and promotes that it is okay to cause suffering to animals. Suffering and cruelty to animals is NOT ACCEPTABLE. In fact, causing pain and distress to animals is illegal.

Government action needs to be taken without delay to protect wild and exotic animals kept in captivity. Bill S-15 aimed to prohibit the keeping in captivity of great apes and elephants in Canada, as well as their reproduction and forced use for entertainment purposes. The bill was adopted by the *Senate* in 2024, but could not be introduced to the *House of Commons* before *Parliament* was prorogued. A similar law is to be reintroduced, but with the addition of big cats, including lions, tigers, cheetahs and leopards, which have complex social, psychological, physical and environmental needs that cannot be met in captivity.

Stop repetitive animal-based testing methods of new drugs and phase out toxicity testing on animals. The government needs to financially invest in non-animal-using alternatives.

We hope we can count on your party's commitment to these important issues. Will you support these recommendations?

March 17, 2025 reply from the office staff of NDP MP Boulterice: "... We share your concern about the legal qualification of animal status. Like you, we believe that animals are sentient beings who feel emotions and pain. Animal abuse is an issue that the NDP cares about. We assure you that the animal cause is a key point on our political agenda for the next federal election.

We also have our online petition on animal abuse and animal rights, which you can sign here: [**www.boulterice.org/animal-rights**](http://www.boulterice.org/animal-rights).

The NDP is calling for, among other things:

- Create a new criminal offence for negligence in not taking care of an animal properly;
- Allow courts to impose a life-long ban on repeat offenders;
- Stop the export of live horses for slaughter.

NDP *Agriculture and Agri-Food* Critic **Alistair MacGregor** has tabled a petition in the *House of Commons* calling on the government to stop transporting live horses for slaughter:

... We share your desire to ensure the welfare of our animals, but also to fight against intensive farming and illegal trade. ..."

Supportive response from Liberal MP Erskine-Smith, June 19, 2025: "... I advocated for including animal welfare in our election platform. I was successful in doing so in 2021, but this year was more challenging with the overwhelming focus on Canada-US relations. The platform did commit the government to protect wildlife, including by stopping the illegal wildlife trade.

While additional commitments did not make their way into the platform, I was assured in writing that we would also move forward to protect animals in captivity, to end the live export of horses for slaughter, and to explore mechanisms for funding a centre for alternatives to animal testing.

I will continue to be a vocal advocate for animal protections in this parliamentary session and to build on the progress we've made since 2015. That progress includes action to strengthen the Criminal Code, ban the shark fin trade, ban the captivity of cetaceans, establish a largely plant-based national food guide, ban cosmetic testing on animals with a broader commitment to phase out toxicity testing on animals overall.

As a founder of the Liberal Animal Welfare Caucus, and past sponsor of a number of animal welfare bills, I'm currently working to restart the caucus for this parliamentary session. ...

I will continue to be a voice for animals as long as I'm in parliament. ..."

CHANGE THE LAWS TO BETTER PROTECT ALL ANIMALS. WHAT WE HAVE NOW IS NOT WORKING VERY WELL:

We modified a sample letter we received in an email from **Animal Justice**, Toronto, ON, June 3, 2025. They were asking letters be sent to newly elected MPs. June 26 and 27 we mailed it to all of the elected Liberal MPs, including the Prime Minister, and the one Green Party MP.

RE: We Need To Take Animal Welfare/Protection More Seriously.

Congratulations on your recent election to the *House of Commons*! We ask that you take bold action for animals in this new session of *Parliament*. Canada's animal protection laws are some of the weakest in the Western world, and are in urgent need of reform. And the Codes of Practice don't seem to help much either from the reports of animal cruelty we receive.

Before the election, several animal protection bills were on the cusp of passing, and some government promises had yet to be fulfilled. Now it's time to pick up where we left off, and to turn those promises into action.

Specifically, we ask you to:

- Support legislation to ban the export of live horses for slaughter abroad—a practice most Canadians strongly oppose.
- Help end the captivity of great apes and elephants, and expand this protection to include big cats suffering in roadside zoos.
- Advocate for federal funding for alternatives to animal testing, including a renewed national centre to accelerate cruelty-free science, such as Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods at the University of Windsor, which was recently forced to close its doors.

These measures have broad public support and represent a critical step toward a more compassionate Canada. Please champion these reforms and help make this the *Parliament* that advances the dire state of animal protection in our country. Also, keep in mind that every year hundreds of millions of animals are suffering and dying miserably in many

types of animal exploiting industries other than those listed above (i.e. The factory-farming of animals for food and fur, transporting of food animals to slaughterhouses, barn fires, east coast commercial seal hunt, etc.).

We would appreciate a reply letting us know if you will commit to helping protect animals.

June 26 a response from Liberal **MP Erskine-Smith's** Parliamentary Assistant, **Cameron Durkin**, offering to speak with us about the June 26 email we sent to their office. We took him up on the offer and **ADLC** President R. Farley called him July 3 about the above issues that have been dormant in the *House of Commons* due to the past federal election.

Point #1: **MP Erskine-Smith** said that he would do his best to re-activate the legislation to ban the export of live horses for slaughter abroad.

Point #2: In early 2024, Bill S-15 was tabled in the House. This Bill would amend the *Criminal Code* to introduce a new offence that would prohibit possessing, breeding, or impregnating captive elephants and great apes and failing to take reasonable measures to prevent the natural breeding of an elephant or great ape kept in captivity. The new prohibition on possessing an elephant or great ape would not apply to elephants or great apes currently in captivity.

This Act would be amended to prohibit the importation or exportation of a living elephant or great ape into or from Canada.

Point #3: There are presently no federal funds for "alternatives to animal testing", and there doesn't seem to be any coming soon. However, the *House of Commons* has been actively discussing alternatives to animal research, with various debates and legislative efforts aimed at reducing the reliance on animal testing.

June 26, 2025 a reply from the Parliamentary Assistant to Liberal **MP Lapointe**: "... **Madame Lapointe** recognizes the importance of ensuring stronger protections for animals and is attentive to the concerns raised regarding Canada's current legislation, the need for reform, and the desire for greater federal leadership on this matter.

Your letter highlights several key issues including the export of live horses for slaughter, the captivity of exotic animals, and the need for investment in cruelty-free research alternatives. These concerns are receiving growing attention within *Parliament* and among the public.

Please be assured that your message and recommendations have been duly noted and will be taken into account as legislative discussions and priorities evolve. ..."

June 27, 2025, an encouraging response from the Chief of Staff on behalf of Liberal **MP Mendès**: "... Since first being elected, **Mrs. Mendès** has always made the issue of animal rights a cornerstone of her work in Ottawa. From chairing the Liberal Animal Welfare Caucus to introducing Private Member's Bills, she has made it a priority to ensure that the issues of animal welfare are brought to the forefront of her work.

Over the years, she has worked in lockstep with organisations such as, **World Animal Protection, Humane Canada, Animal Justice** and the **Canadian Horse Defence Coalition** to name but a few, in order to advance key animal welfare issues.

She continues to collaborate with her caucus colleagues to ensure that our party continues to pursue animal welfare issues, including the end of exports of live horses for slaughter.

Animal welfare is extremely important to her, and she will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that these critical issues do not fall by the wayside. ..."

July 8, 2025 response from Liberal **MP Lalonde**: "... Like many Canadians, we believe that the humane treatment of animals reflects our core values as a society. Your concerns regarding Canada's animal protection laws, the use of live horse exports for slaughter, roadside zoos, and the need for cruelty-free research alternatives are important and timely.

We share your view that *Parliament* has a role to play in advancing stronger, science-based animal welfare standards. We are committed to reviewing and supporting common-sense legislation that improves protections for animals, supports innovation in cruelty-free science, and responds to public concern with meaningful action.

Our team will continue to follow this issue closely and will raise your recommendations with our colleagues in Ottawa. ..."

USA FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) TO PHASE OUT ANIMAL TESTING: According to an April 11, 2025 email from the **Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine**, Washington, DC, the **FDA** plans to phase out the use of

animals: "... in the testing and development of monoclonal antibody therapies, and begin reducing and replacing the use of animals in drug testing altogether – saving countless animals from horrific experiments each year!

... The *FDA*, which regulates food, drugs, medical devices, tobacco, vaccines, cosmetics, and other products tested on animals, has long required that drugs be tested on animals – even though 95% of drugs that are safe and effective in animals fail during human trials. The *FDA*'s new plan to phase out animal testing in favor of human-relevant methods like organ chips and organoids to test some drugs marks the beginning of a new era in drug development – and a momentous first step to ending the use of all animals in drug testing! ..."

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 the end of July 2025 we helped individuals with some of the cost of: a guinea pig with a possible ovarian cyst, and different cats – damaged tongue, not eating, medication to treat a liver ailment; a cat with a gas issue. We helped one cat rescue group with some of the cost of 1 cat euthanasia, cat food and medications. 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, Animals in Distress Fund or our non-animal-using Alternative Research Fund, see page 16.

MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA'S AGM, March 30, 2025, 2:12 pm, St. Laurent Complex, Solarium Room, 525 Côte Street, Ottawa, Ontario: President R. Farley chaired the meeting. A quorum of members was present. Paraphrased/excerpted reports follow:

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 24, 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM): **MOTION:** The March 24, 2024 AGM minutes be accepted as presented. **MOVED** by R. Farley. **SECONDED** by J. Bélair. **CARRIED** with no objections.

TREASURER'S REPORT: 2024 Financial Statements: J. Bélair presented the ***ADLC's*** Review Engagement Financial Statements and Report prepared by **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** for the year ending December 31, 2024. **MOTION:** Accept the Review Engagement Financial Statements and Report prepared by **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** for the year ending December 31, 2024. **MOVED** by R. Bélair. **SECONDED** by B. Bernhardt. **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 2025 financial year. **MOVED** by J. Bélair. **SECONDED** by R. Farley. **CARRIED** with no objections.

Have Appointed Public Accountant Conduct a Review Engagement for 2025:

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF MEMBERS

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:

The Directors of the **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA** are authorized to have **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** prepare a Review Engagement Financial Statements Report and tax forms for 2025 on behalf of the **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA**.

The undersigned, being the duly elected President of the **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA** certifies that the above is a true and correct copy of a special resolution of the **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA**, passed at a meeting of members held on the 30th of March, 2025, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast by the members of the Corporation who voted in person in respect of the resolution, and the resolution is in full force and effect as of the date below.

Dated _____ [March 30, 2025]

[Signed by R. Farley]
President, **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA**

MOTION: The **SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF MEMBERS** was moved by B. Bernhardt. **SECONDED** by R. Bélair. **CARRIED** with no objections.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT: 2025-2026 ADLC Directors: R. Farley presented the list of candidates to serve as Directors on the **ADLC's** Board for 2025-2026: 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 J. Bélair. **SECONDED** by R. Farley. **CARRIED** with no objections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: COMPANION ANIMALS: ADLC'S SPAY/NEUTER FUND AND ANIMALS IN DISTRESS FUND: From January to the end of December 2024 we helped individuals with cats: 1 with mouth/dental problems, 2 eye infections and 1 euthanasia; and dogs with: an ear infection and an eye infection, and one was very sick, another dog was not feeling well. We helped cat rescuers with some of the cost of: 14 spays/neuters, vaccinations/deworming/defleaing, 1 dental, 2 euthanasias, various medications, cat food, and 1 dog had a toe amputated. We continued with 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.

ADLC'S SPAY PROJECT: This project began in early 2023 with the help of the Ottawa Spay/Neuter Clinic. Every month we agreed to contribute towards half the cost of spaying 3 dogs each month. To qualify individuals must either be living in Ottawa Community Housing, or receiving help from the Ontario Disability Support Program (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. From January to December 4 dogs were spayed through this project. The Clinic has been without a veterinarian, and it is hoped someone will be hired in February-March 2025.

ADLC ADVERTISING: A full page ad was placed in the SPRING/SUMMER 2024 and FALL/WINTER 2024-25 **ULTIMATE GUIDE to Retirement Living**, Ottawa edition. Our ad promoted **ADLC's** Spay/Neuter Fund and non-animal-using Alternative Research Fund. We also placed our "BE KIND TO ANIMALS. DON'T EXPLOIT THEM." half page ad in the University of Victoria's **Martlet** student newspaper, Victoria, BC. The ad ran monthly from September 2024 to April 2025.

FOOD ANIMALS: HORSES, BULLS, STEERS, COWS AND CALVES HAVE DIED AT RODEO EVENTS – Los Angeles, CA: The Professional Bull Riders (PBR) were putting on a show February 16 and 17 in downtown Los Angeles. December 2023 Council voted unanimously in support of a Los Angeles ban. But a group from Wyoming was planning to travel to Los Angeles to lobby councillors to not pass the Los Angeles Rodeo Ban. March 5, 2024 we emailed 13 City of Los Angeles councillors asking them to end the senseless cruelty, suffering and deaths of animals by enacting legislation banning animal performances.

Over the years at rodeos, many animals have been injured, some minor, some very serious (crushed skulls, broken legs, gored flanks, snapped spines, some died immediately or were euthanized). The numbers of practice animals that were used behind the scenes during training sessions to perfect rodeo skills, that were injured or died, are unknown. For rodeos, animal injuries and deaths are the price of doing BUSINESS.

Such cruel and exploitive use of animals in public encourages and promotes that it is okay to cause suffering to animals. Suffering and cruelty to animals is NOT ACCEPTABLE. [**ADLC** Bulletin #204 – FALL/WINTER 2024]

"STOP THE BULL: Sign the Petition!": The **Ottawa Humane Society**, Ottawa, ON, started this petition that opposed the use of animals in entertainment acts that caused physical or psychological harm to them. We signed it May 24, 2024. The petitions were to be presented to **Ottawa City Council**. The business that brought the event to Los Angeles, Professional Bull Riders, was coming to Ottawa. [**ADLC** Bulletin #204 – FALL/WINTER 2024]

LET'S END RODEO CRUELTY FOR THE SAKE OF THE ANIMALS: July 2, 2024 we emailed: BC Minister of *Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports* **Lana Popham**. Also the Mayors and Councillors in: Armstrong, Chilliwack, Merritt and Princeton, BC. VHS footage from rodeos in these British Columbia communities showed evidence of inhumane handling and animals who were stressed and suffering. Clips showed animals being roped around the neck; thrown and wrestled to the ground; and kicked with spurs. Animals are seen being hit and kicked; having their tail and ears twisted and pulled; frightened animals running into fences, thrashing in the chutes, and resisting handlers.

BC's *Ministry of Tourism* awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in 2023 to rodeo events across the province, including to some of the rodeos featured in the **Vancouver Humane Society's** recent footage. We urged the Minister of *Tourism* to stop providing funding to events that host inhumane rodeo activities, including bucking, roping, wrestling and mutton busting.

Funding should instead be directed to community events that don't put animals in harm's way. We also urged the Mayors and

councils to pass a municipal bylaw, if one does not already exist, that prohibits inhumane rodeo events and practices, including bucking, roping, wrestling and mutton busting. [**ADLC** Bulletin #204 – FALL/WINTER 2024]

BAN THE CALGARY STAMPEDE: July 26, 2024 we sent emails to 14 City of Calgary Councillors plus the Mayor, as well as to Alberta **Premier Smith** and the **Hon. Mickey Amery**, Minister of *Justice and Solicitor General*; and to the federal Minister of *Tourism Martinez Ferrada*. We asked them to help end the senseless cruelty, suffering and deaths of animals by enacting legislation banning animal performances. Also, all levels of government need to STOP funding/supporting these abusive animal-using events.

July 29, a response from the Policy and Communications Advisor, Ward 8 Office – **Councillor Walcott**: He recommended we contact the Stampede's Board of Directors.

August 16, 2024 a disappointing response from Alberta **Minister RJ Sigurdson**, *Agriculture and Irrigation*: "... Rodeos are accepted practices in North America and, therefore, do not contravene the APA [Alberta's Animal Protection Act]. ..." [For more of his response see **ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

July 26, 2024 we took the **Vancouver Humane Society's** #SayNoToRodeo pledge that was to be presented to Calgary City Council when 10,000 signatures had been collected. [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

BC'S FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT: April 17, 2024 we emailed BC **Premier Eby**, and Minister of *Agriculture and Food Pam Alexis*. We were pleased to see that recommendations from the Advisory Committee tasked with reviewing the framework had been sent to the *Ministry of Agriculture and Food*. We strongly encouraged the *Ministry of Agriculture and Food*, and the B.C. government, to prioritize reviewing the Committee's recommendations and implementing them in a way that results in meaningful change for farmed animals, and to ensure that regulations and standards are based on the best available animal welfare science and that they are government-mandated and proactively enforced. It's crucial that oversight and enforcement measures include consistent video surveillance monitoring and unannounced inspections and audits, which are made publicly available. [**ADLC** Bulletin #204 – FALL/WINTER 2024]

April 19, 2024 we received a reply from the *Office of the Premier*. We were informed that our message will be relayed to **Premier Eby** and his senior staff, and to the Honourable **Pam Alexis**, Minister of *Agriculture and Food*. [**ADLC** Bulletin #204 – FALL/WINTER 2024]

BEEF CATTLE CODE OF PRACTICE SURVEY: May 2, 2024 we took part in an online survey conducted by the National Farm Animal Care Council, Lacombe, AB. We were limited to three points (and 14 words per box/point). Our concerns were:

- 1) Little to no regard for the well-being of cattle in feedlots, transport, slaughterhouses.
- 2) Inadequate, inhumane and overcrowded living conditions in barns and feedlots.
- 3) No pain medication being given for castrations, horn removals, etc.

BAN INHUMANE LIVE HORSE EXPORTS BY AIR FOR SLAUGHTER: September 19, 2024 we emailed a letter to 11 Senators on the *Standing Committee for Agriculture & Forestry* regarding BILL C-355 – The Prohibition of the Export of Horses by Air for Slaughter Act. We urged them to move quickly to ban the export of live horses for slaughter for human consumption. The misery these horses are put through is cruel, inhumane, and it needs to **STOP NOW**. [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

BILL C-355: An Act to Prohibit the Export by Air of Horses for Slaughter and to Make Related Amendments to Certain Acts: September 20, 2024 we signed Liberal **MP Loul's** online form letter that was urging the *Senators* to support and quickly pass Bill C-355 which would ban the export of live horses by air for slaughter. With *Parliament* prorogued nothing is now happening with this Bill.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION: PROHIBIT FUR FARMING IN CANADA: January 29, 2024 we emailed a letter to the federal Minister of *Health*, Minister of the *Environment and Climate Change*, and the Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food*. It is upsetting and tragic that iconic Canadian wildlife species – wolves, bobcats, and lynx – are being commercially farmed for their fur in Canada's agricultural sector. It is abhorrent that these wild animals are kept confined, and are miserably raised, on fur farms, only to be killed so that their fur can be used in luxury fashion fur products that no one needs.

This industry has significant environmental impacts and endangers public health, as British Columbia's 2021 ban on mink farming made clear. It's time for the federal government to take responsibility and move fur farming into the past. [**ADLC** Bulletin #204 – FALL/WINTER 2024]

END CANADA'S BRUTAL, INHUMANE ANNUAL EAST COAST COMMERCIAL SEAL SLAUGHTER: May 2, 2024 we emailed a letter to *Fisheries and Oceans Minister Diane LeBouthillier*. It was also emailed to several MPs with a note: Can you help put pressure on the government regarding this shameful matter?

There is no basis for this hunt, there is no reason for it to be done and it is merciless and violent. Those in support of the commercial hunt continue to use the same old discredited arguments and disreputable tactics including blaming the seals for harming the fish population. The real cause of declining fish stocks is overfishing and climate heating. This hunt has created a global stain on Canada's reputation. Why does our federal government continue to enable horrific animal cruelty for the sake of the few annual jobs created? It is time to end Canada's commercial seal hunt, once and for all. [**ADLC** Bulletin #204 – FALL/WINTER 2024]

STRYCHNINE AND COMPOUND 1080 REVIEW: January 12, 2024 we sent an email to The **Honourable Mark Holland**, Minister of *Health*. Also forwarded this email to the following MPs with a note: For your information. We hope you can put pressure on the Liberal government to stop the use of these two poisons on animals. MP List: **Nathaniel Erskine-Smith** and **Jennica Atwin**, Liberals; **Michelle Rempel Garner**, Conservative; **Elizabeth May** and **Mike Morrice**, Green Party, etc. (total of 13 MPs). Strychnine and Compound 1080 were soon coming up for review by the federal government. We asked the Minister to amend the Pest Control Products Act regulations to ban Strychnine and Compound 1080. These poisons are highly toxic and extremely cruel.

As the province of Alberta was the only province still using these two poisons – that should have made it easier to ban its use. Safe, humane, effective, cost-efficient human-wildlife conflict prevention and non-lethal intervention programmes exist and should be used instead of such draconian substances. We urged the Minister to ban Strychnine and Compound 1080 for animal use and end Alberta's continued use of these cruel poisons.

SEMI-GOOD NEWS: March 7, 2024 *Health Canada* cancelled all use of strychnine in Canada. Unfortunately, Compound 1080 will still be allowed for "predator control" use to kill animals. [**ADLC** Bulletin #204 – FALL/WINTER 2024]

BAN CRUEL FACTORY-FUR FARMS: Our letter was emailed to 149 Liberal MPs over several days, starting on October 29, 2024. Canadian wildlife species such as wolves, bobcats, foxes, minks and lynx [and other species] are being commercially farmed for their fur. Fur-farmed animals experience significant pain and suffering throughout their lives in captivity on these horrible factory-fur farms before they are killed for their fur. Half of Canada's provinces do not have any fur farming regulations, raising serious concerns about the absence of government oversight and the animal welfare conditions in the fur farm sector nationwide.

Many countries, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway, and Italy, etc., have banned fur farming. In several cases, support programs were available to help fur farmers and workers transition into more sustainable and safer industries.

For the sake of human health, environmental health, the legalized animal cruelty this commercial industry gets away with, and *especially your conscience*, it's time for the Federal government to move fur farming into the past.

A reply from Liberal MP **Robert Oliphant**, October 31, 2024: "... the federal government has worked with the fur farm sector to develop some of the most stringent requirements in the world to ensure the humane treatment and handling of the animals. Violation of any requirements may be subject to inspection by provincial authorities and action being taken under provincial regulations. ..." [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

A reply from the office of Liberal MP **Yvan Baker**, October 31, 2024: His letter writer states: "... The conditions you describe are both troubling and disheartening, underscoring the complex ethical and environmental challenges associated with fur farming in Canada. ... **MP Baker** believes that Canada should carefully consider how to support fur farm workers as they transition into alternative, sustainable industries, as British Columbia has begun to do. ..." [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

REVERSE YOUR PLAN TO ISSUE NEW PERMITS FOR DOG TRAINING/HUNTING PENS: November 29, 2024 we emailed a letter to 16 MPPs including **Premier Ford**; **Doug Downey**, Minister of *Justice*; **Graydon Smith**, Minister of *Natural Resources and Forestry*; **Kevin Holland**, Associate Minister of *Forestry & Forestry Products*; **Andrea Khanjin**, Minister of the *Environment, Conservation & Parks*. The *Ontario Government* had officially opened the application period for hunters to establish new dog training/hunting pens, also known as "train and trial areas". Ontario is the only province in Canada to allow this cruel activity. In 1997 Ontario had passed a law to phase it out.

Coyotes, foxes, and rabbits are captured from the wild, confined in fenced-in areas, and used as live bait. Dogs frequently attack, injure, and even kill these terrorized, trapped wild animals. Dogs are often injured during these fights as well.

Expanding penned dog training/hunting is cruel to animals and lacks public support, but it's not too late to change course. We asked the government to reverse their plan to issue new permits, and instead focus on shutting down the few remaining pens in the province. [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

Supportive reply from Green Party **MPP Mike Schreiner**, December 9, 2024: "... Instead of opening new applications, the government should prioritize strengthening the existing legislation that bans new facilities, and shutting down the few facilities that remain. ... I will continue to apply pressure on the government to abandon this cruel and inhumane legislation. ..." [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

EXPERIMENTATION: WHY IS THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE STILL MAIMING AND KILLING ANIMALS IN MEDICAL TRAINING?: November 8, 2024 we emailed a letter to **DND Minister Blair**; also to **Health Minister Mark Holland**, and a few other Liberal MPs, a few NDP MPs, 2 Green Party MPs and 1 Conservative (total of 15 MPs) with a NOTE: For your information. Can you help? We urged the Minister to end the practice of using live animals in Canada's *Department of National Defence (DND)* medical training. To their credit, *DND* is using a life-like human patient simulator, but they also continue to deliberately and severely injure live animals. More than 70 percent of North Atlantic Treaty Organizations (NATO) countries are using human-relevant, non-animal methods for all military medical training. Animals' anatomy and physiology is vastly different from humans', so that learning about human injuries by practicing on animals instead of today's human-based simulators shortchanges both students and future patients. [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

A supportive response from **MP Elizabeth May**, Green Party, November 18, 2024. (Excerpt:) "... I have long called for a parliamentary committee on animal welfare. This committee would help to protect and advocate for the rights of horses and other animals. I am continuing to work to develop legislation that would update Canada's criminal code as it pertains to animal protection. It would move crimes against animals from the property section and instead recognize animals as conscious beings. We need to demand that the *Department of National Defence* transitions from live tissue training on piglets to more advanced and authentic human patient simulators. ... I will continue to advocate for an end to this cruel practice in the military. ..."

STOP USING ANIMALS TO TEST NEW DRUGS: June 28, 2024 we signed a *House of Commons* e-petition e-4952 (Animals). For example, this petition was asking the Minister of *Health* to: (Excerpt:) "... 1. Direct *Health Canada* to end the entrenched requirement for the testing of new drugs on animals in favour of sophisticated, human-relevant and reliable evidence methods; ... Reallocate funding from repetitive animal testing-based science to the development, validation and implementation of scientifically and morally superior methods; ..." [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PHASING OUT TOXICITY TESTING ON ANIMALS: November 6, 2024 we emailed our personalized submission, through **Animal Justice's** (Toronto, ON) web page, that would be sent to the Director General, ERHSD *Health Canada*, the Minister of *Health* **Mark Holland**, the Minister of the *Environment* **Steven Guilbeault**, the Minister of *Finance* **Chrystia Freeland** and to **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau**. We individually emailed our personalized submission to 149 Liberal MPs over a few days starting November 6, 2024.

To make good on the federal government's commitment to phase out the use of animals in toxicity testing by the end of 2035, our government needs to seriously invest more funding in non-animal cruelty-free science. Two such established Canadian facilities that can help, but need funding, are the Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods (CCAAM) and the Canadian Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (CCVAM), at the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario. Animal toxicity tests are cruel and cause immense suffering to tens of thousands of animals annually in Canada, lasting for weeks and months without pain relief given to the animals. With the CCAAM's help maybe the government's deadline could be reached even sooner than 2035. [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA: December 16, 2024 we received a response from the **Honourable Arif Virani**. The federal Minister of *Tourism* had forwarded our letter to him (**ADLC's** July 26, 2024 "Horses, Bulls, Steers and Calves Have Died at Rodeos" letter.). We had also emailed 149 Liberal MPs regarding closing down factory-fur farms and stopping animal toxicity testing: **Minister Virani** provided us with general information about: The Criminal Code, each level of government has the right to act within its jurisdiction. For animals in rodeos we should check out the *Government of Alberta website*, provinces and territories also have their own animal protection laws allowing authorized agencies to take action. Fur farming and animal testing at the federal level are handled by the **Honourable Mark Holland**, Minister of *Health* and a copy of our letter was sent to him. [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA E-PETITION e-5114 (Animals): This petition is being sponsored by Green Party **MP Elizabeth May**.

We signed it on September 19, 2024. It was asking "... the **Government of Canada** to pass legislation that recognizes animals as the sentient beings they are, rather than property." [**ADLC** Bulletin #205 – SPRING/SUMMER 2025]

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 3:30 pm. **MOVED** by R. Farley. **SECONDED** by J. Bélair. **CARRIED** with no objections.

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IN MEMORIAM

*We received a bequest from the Estate of Joan C.F.M. Bedford, Ottawa, Ontario.
The compassion and generosity of such bequests provides much needed support
for our efforts on behalf of the animals. It is greatly appreciated.*



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.

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.

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

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

Accountant: Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP, 301 Moodie Drive, Suite 400, Ottawa (Nepean), Ontario, K2H 9C4. Financial statements are available from the **ADLC** upon request, free of charge including postage costs.