

ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA

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ISSN #1204-6639

Tel: (613)233-6117

Bulletin #208 – FALL/WINTER 2026

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RECOGNIZING ANIMAL SENTIENCE: The *Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals*, Toronto, ON, provided a sample letter in their April 25, 2026 email. We modified it and emailed it to 174 *Liberal* MPs, 140 *Progressive Conservative* MPs, 1 *Green Party* and 5 *NDP* MPs over several days beginning May 4, 2026.

E-petition 6955 asking the *Government of Canada* to declare animals sentient garnered 23,901 signatures. This petition was read in *parliament* on April 15, 2026. Now we need your help. Will you please inform the Minister responsible that you support passing legislation that recognizes animals as the sentient beings they are, rather than mere property.

32 countries have recognized non-human animal sentience. We hope Canada will become the 33rd country to join that list.

We look forward to hearing from you.

We received a very supportive email from *NDP MP Don Davies*, attaching copies of the letter he sent to **The Honorable Heath MacDonald**, Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food*, and to **The Honorable Sean Fraser**, Minister of *Justice and Attorney General of Canada*, dated May 11, 2026. "... As someone who has long supported the ethical treatment of animals, I believe there is significant merit to legislation recognizing animal sentience. Many jurisdictions, including the European Union, researchers and scientists around the world have recognized that animals are capable of experiencing pain, distress, and self-awareness, and many Canadians believe our laws should reflect this understanding. ...

I hope that you and your department will give this important matter the consideration it deserves, reflecting evolving societal values regarding animal welfare and the ethical need to respect life in all its varied forms. ..."

Also, from *Liberal MP Jenna Sudds*, May 12, 2026: "... I have shared your message with both teams at the offices for the Minister of *Justice and Attorney General of Canada*, and the Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food*, for further consideration. ..."

A government response was tabled May 29, 2026 by the **Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency**. Signed by THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY PATRICIA LATTANZIO.

"Our *Government* understands and recognizes the important role animals play in our society and their inherent value as living beings. We are prioritizing policies that protect animals and make Canada a better place for them, aligning ourselves with growing public interest. In 2023, cosmetic testing on animals was banned through former Bill C-47 and in 2018 we supported the creation of criminal offences related to the captivity of whales and dolphins. More recently, the *Government* has proposed changes as part of Bill C-16, the *Protecting Victims Act*, which would protect both animals and children from the harms caused by the distribution of recordings of bestiality. We believe that animals deserve protection under the law and we are committed to continuing this work.

Within the context of Canada's criminal law, the current classification of animals as property in the *Criminal Code* has not prevented Canadian courts from finding that offences targeting criminal acts against animals were enacted for the protection of the animals themselves, separate from their legal status as property. Further, Canadian courts have also recognized that animals are sentient beings in numerous cases dealing with animal cruelty prosecutions; sentence is a question of fact and science.

Our *Government* remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a compassionate and humane society. We believe that by continuing to strengthen legal protections for animals, we can improve the lives of animals from coast-to-coast-to-coast."

CRUEL, INHUMANE ANIMAL TRAPS: January 20, 2026 *The Fur-Bearers*, North Vancouver, BC, provided a letter that we personalized. January 29, 2026 one was emailed to BC Premier Eby, the other to BC Minister Neill, Water, Lands, and Natural Resource Stewardship.

Moon, a beloved Siberian Husky, died, choking slowly to death in front of his owner, as he desperately tried to free Moon from a Conibear trap set and baited just feet away from a public road on January 8, 2026. Moon was lured to the bait-set trap, which triggered the powerful jaws of the trap. Witnessing his dog dying so horribly will probably haunt him for a very long time.

Year after year, numerous dogs and cats are being injured and killed in traps because the province fails to sufficiently regulate the commercial trapping industry. The Ministry is aware of numerous incidents of pets being caught in traps every trapping season, yet it refuses to bring in reasonable measures to protect the public from the dangers of trapping – despite knowing about this for more than 13 years. These traps do not discriminate, catching other unintended animals.

Everyone has a reasonable expectation to safety while on Crown land, and current trapping regulations make that impossible. We are asking you to support the creation of Moon's Law, which would end commercial/recreational trapping in British Columbia.

In the interim, we are also asking you to speak on our behalf to Minister of Water, Lands, and Natural Resource Stewardship Randene Neill to call for immediate, common-sense trapping regulation updates (through the Wildlife Act review process, or annual trapping regulatory reviews) that include: *[In the letter to Minister Neill, this paragraph was replaced with: In the interim, we are also asking you to call for immediate, common-sense trapping regulation updates (through the Wildlife Act review process, or annual trapping regulatory reviews) that include:]*

- Require consistent, clear, visible signage on all trap lines and when any trapping is occurring on public or private lands.
- Increase setbacks from roads, trails, and areas of use by outdoor recreationalists.
- End the use of bait, particularly in traps near publicly accessible areas.
- Prohibit trapping in all provincial parks.

Please respond to our concerns, and let us know what steps the province will take to address this urgent issue.

ENDANGERED SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALES NEED MUCH BETTER PROTECTION: We received email notice from *In Defense of Animals*, San Rafael, CA, June 1, 2026, asking letters be sent to Joanne Thompson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, and to Julie Dabrusin, Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature. *In Defense of Animals* provided a letter which we personalized. Our letter was sent through their web page June 5, and we individually sent it by email June 5, 2026.

We urge you to immediately implement enforceable action to protect the Southern Resident killer whales, an endangered population that continues to decline despite existing measures. Alarming fewer than 75 individuals remain, and recent deaths of adults and newborn calves show that current protections are failing.

We recognize that Canada has recently announced new 2026 vessel regulations, including increased minimum approach distances and expanded seasonal slow zones. While these measures are a step in the right direction, they remain limited in scope, temporary in nature, and do not address the full range of threats these whales face. As such, they are not enough to reverse the ongoing decline.

Voluntary guidelines and temporary restrictions have not reversed this decline. Since 2005, the population has shrunk by 16 individuals, despite the *government's* recognition that these whales face imminent threats. Stronger action is urgently needed.

The QENTOL, YEN/WSÁNEĆ Marine Program has clearly documented these failures and is leading the call for real, enforceable protections. Without decisive action now, Southern Resident killer whales will continue toward extinction.

The QENTOL, YEN/WSÁNEĆ Marine Program Recommends:

- Strengthening, expanding and enforcing vessel speed and distance regulations with consistent monitoring and penalties.
- Establishing year-round permanent sanctuary zones in critical habitat.
- Reducing underwater noise and limiting commercial whale-watching pressure.
- Restoring and protecting Chinook salmon through habitat safeguards and fishery closures.
- Halting industrial expansion projects that increase risk in Southern Resident killer whale habitat.
- Implementing these protections through enforceable regulations, not voluntary or interim measures.

We urge you to act with the urgency this crisis demands and to implement protections that give these whales a genuine chance to survive and recover.

Thank you for your time and attention to this crucial issue. Please let us know what you are going to do to protect the few remaining Southern Resident killer whales before there are none left.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: A June 3, 2026 email from the **Georgia Strait Alliance**, Vancouver BC, concerning the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKWs). Using their letter, we changed I's to We's and June 7, 2026 sent the letter through the **Georgia Strait Alliance's** web page. They forwarded it to the following federal *Liberal* MPs: **Mark Carney, Dominic LeBlanc, Gregor Robertson, Julie Dabrusin, Melanie Joly, Will Greaves, Ernie Klassen, Terry Beech and Yasir Naqul.**

The *Federal Government's* proposal to fast-track major projects such as pipelines, ports, and transmission corridors within one year is not in the 'public interest'. The proposal severely undermines existing provisions to protect species at risk, especially the Southern Resident killer whales in the Salish Sea.

We are especially concerned with the provision to exempt projects from the Species at Risk Act's 'jeopardy test'. This is a critical safeguard in the legislation to afford species at risk the protections they urgently require for their survival and recovery.

This exemption pushes SRKWs further towards extinction as they face ever growing threats from increased shipping, underwater noise, and pollution linked with rapid industrial expansion in the Salish Sea. Reducing these protections for projects deemed as 'national interest' sets a dangerous precedent and pushes back Canada's environmental commitments by decades.

We urge you to lead by example and create a legacy that prioritizes biodiversity, transparent and science-based decision-making, Indigenous leadership, and the long-term health of the Salish Sea. No pipeline or major project should push Southern Resident killer whales closer to extinction. This is not in our interest, and hopefully it's not in yours either.

We know that you care about our future as much as we do.

We await your response, and thanks in advance for getting back to us as soon as possible.

Living Oceans Society, West Vancouver, BC, June 30, 2026 email was asking we sign their letter. We made very few changes to it. July 6, 2026 it was emailed through their web page, and we also emailed it individually to *Liberal Prime Minister Carney, Joanne Thompson, Liberal Minister of Fisheries & Oceans and Canada Coast Guard*, plus to **MP Elizabeth May, Green Party.**

We are writing to ask you to protect Canada's wildlife by rejecting any changes that would weaken our environmental laws.

We understand the need to build projects that strengthen Canada's economy. But we should never have to choose between economic growth and healthy ecosystems. We can—and must—have both.

The proposed changes to federal environmental laws could make it easier to approve projects that put endangered species at greater risk. That includes species like the Southern Resident Killer Whales, which are already struggling to survive.

Canada has long been known as a country that values nature. Our oceans, forests, rivers, and wildlife are part of who we are. They support jobs, communities, Indigenous cultures, tourism, recreation, and our quality of life. Weakening the laws that protect them puts all of this at risk.

We are also concerned that the proposed changes could reduce environmental reviews, limit public participation, and weaken respect for Indigenous rights and knowledge. Good decisions require careful review, transparency, and meaningful consultation.

We urge you to:

- 1) Ensure no roll backs: Keep strong protections for nature and endangered species.
- 2) Maintain rigorous environmental assessments for major projects.
- 3) Respect Indigenous rights and leadership in environmental decision-making.
- 4) Ensure economic development does not come at the cost of extinction.

Extinction is forever. Once a species is gone, we cannot bring it back.

Please stand up for nature and ensure Canada's environmental laws continue to protect the wildlife and ecosystems that future generations deserve to inherit.

Thank you for your time and for considering our concerns.

AMENDING BILL C-16 TO PROHIBIT ANIMAL TORTURE VIDEOS: An April 24, 2026 *Animal Justice* email (Toronto, ON) was asking for support by sending a letter to the Federal *Justice Standing Committee*. We made a few changes to their letter and it was emailed to the *Justice Standing Committee* Members on May 1, 2026 through *Animal Justice's* web page.

RE: Making, Distributing, Selling, Watching, etc. Animal Torture Videos Is Depraved, Sick Human Behaviour.

Recently, a Winnipeg couple was caught torturing animals on video for pay, including kittens, birds, rabbits, hamsters, frogs, and an axolotl. Even more disturbing is the fact that this was not an isolated incident. Animal torture and "crush" videos are created, sold, and watched in Canada, often through underground online networks and the dark web.

Bill C-16 is an important opportunity to change this. Currently, the bill would make it an offence to distribute and sell bestiality videos. But the *Justice Committee* has an opportunity to strengthen the bill and prohibit all animal torture videos, whether or not they are sexual in nature.

The same rationale behind the new bestiality video offence applies to other forms of animal torture videos. For instance, when law enforcement learns of videos depicting animal torture, they currently lack the tools to address the creation and distribution of the videos themselves—a serious gap given that the face of the perpetrator is often not visible. Furthermore, online predators even deliberately target children and adolescents, grooming them and encouraging them to harm animals on camera for blackmail and other abhorrent purposes.

Prohibiting all animal crush or torture videos would garner wide support across the country and would help protect vulnerable animals from extreme abuse. We hope we can count on you and your colleagues to strengthen Bill C-16 and address this dangerous legal gap.

May 29, 2026 we signed a TAKE ACTION letter provided by **Humane Canada**, Ottawa, ON, their May 27, 2026 email. Bill C-16 must now pass a *House of Commons* vote before moving to the *Senate*. Their letter was urging *Members of Parliament* to pass the Bill and support its passage into law. The letter we signed was to be sent to our local MP by **Humane Canada**.

END THE TORMENT AND SUFFERING OF CATS, DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS IN RESEARCH LABORATORIES: A February 23, 2026 email from **Animal Alliance of Canada**, Toronto, ON, informed us that the proposed changes to Bill 75 are incomplete and the *government* needs to "... implement stronger, enforceable regulations that will close loopholes, ensure ethical oversight is established, and mandate greater transparency to the public. ..." They provided a letter to MPPs. We personalized it and sent it to all of the Ontario MPPs March 11-12, 2026, and one was resent on March 16.

Many Ontario voters care deeply about dogs and cats as much as we do.

Following the *Investigative Journalism Bureau's* August 7, 2025, exposé of cruel heart research being conducted on dogs at St. Joseph's Hospital in London, the public response was immediate. **Premier Ford** promised to phase out the use of dogs and cats in research, and legislation was introduced on November 25, 2025, through Bill 75 and proposed regulatory amendments to the *Animals for Research Act*.

However, as currently drafted, these proposed legislative and regulatory changes do not fully protect dogs and cats. Significant gaps remain that would still permit their use in harmful research, testing, and teaching,

including:

- continued use under regulatory exceptions and discretionary approvals
- lack of clear, enforceable language banning harmful procedures that are conducted not in the best interest of the animal
- absence of independent oversight governing any permitted procedures

If the *government's* commitment is truly to end the use of dogs and cats in harmful research, the law must clearly and explicitly:

- Prohibit all **harmful research, testing, and teaching procedures** involving dogs and cats
- Allow only **therapeutic procedures** that directly benefit the individual animal
- Remove discretionary exceptions

We urge you to strengthen Bill 75 and the proposed regulatory amendments to the *Animals for Research Act*, so they deliver real, enforceable protections for dogs and cats. We hope these lifesaving protections can be extended to other animals, such as primates, in the future.

Ontario has the opportunity to lead modern, humane, and scientifically responsible policy. Please seriously consider working with your federal counterparts to support the re-opening of Canada's national centre for alternatives to animal research here in Ontario. Non-animal methods are also better at predicting human and environmental health outcomes and re-opening our national centre will help position Canada, and Ontario, as a leader in this emerging field.

We are depending on the *Premier* to fulfill his commitment to our companion animals.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

We had a couple of replies. March 12 **Team Gates** asked if we had reached out to the official opposition shadow minister of the **Solicitor General, MPP Jennie Stevens**. We wrote back saying we had and that we hoped we would hear from her. Does the *NDP* have a position on this bill? No response.

March 16 the Communications Advisor to *Conservative MPP Rob Flack* said: "... **MPP Flack** is aware of the ongoing public discussions surrounding Bill 75 and the proposed regulatory amendments to the *Animals for Research Act*. ... your feedback has been noted and will be considered as part of the legislative process. ..."

A May 15, 2026 email from **Animal Alliance of Canada**, Toronto, ON, was asking a letter be sent to your Ontario MPP, and if sent through their web page a copy would be sent to **Premier Ford**, and the **Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness**. The letter was similar to the letter above, but shorter. May 25, 2026 we individually emailed the letter to 79 *Conservative MPPs* that included the **Premier** and the **Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness**, and to the two *Green Party MPPs*. Bill 75 contains gaps that would still allow harmful use of these animals.

SAVE MILLIONS OF ANIMALS' LIVES BY SUPPORTING AND FUNDING CRUELTY-FREE SCIENCE: An April 30, 2026 **Animal Justice**, Toronto, Ontario, email provided a letter you could personalize, which we did. May 15, 2026 the letter below was emailed to federal **Health Minister Marjorie Michel** and **Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne**:

Thank you for your work to reduce and replace the use of animals in painful experiments under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999. Are you aware that every year, more than three million animals, including dogs, monkeys, rabbits and mice are used in Canadian research, with many forced to endure brutal experiments that cause unimaginable pain and suffering? Developing and validating cutting-edge, animal-free scientific research methods will reduce animal suffering while better protecting the environment and human health through the use of modern, non-animal 21st century scientific approaches.

In order to ensure Canada benefits from these new and improved research methods, we need public investment in the **Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods (CCAAM)** — Canada's national hub, in Windsor, Ontario, for developing, validating, and promoting non-animal methods. **CCAAM's** role is integral to achieving our national objectives in this field. Unlike other national centres in jurisdictions like the US, Brazil, Japan, the Netherlands, South Korea, and the UK, the **CCAAM** has received no public funding to date and has been forced to close its doors as a result. You can help by investing in the development of cutting-edge, animal-free research methods.

Please act now to support the important work of the **CCAAM** and make Canada a leader in developing cruelty-free methods that better protect the health of humans and our planet.

We hope you agree, and we welcome your feedback on this important matter that affects the lives of so many animals in Canada.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE IS STILL USING LIVE ANIMALS FOR MEDICAL/TRAUMA TRAINING: May 1, 2026 we signed a *House of Commons* e-petition 7272 (Animals), sponsored by *Conservative MP Eric Duncan*.

"Petition to the Minister of *National Defence*

Whereas:

- pigs are intelligent and sentient animals capable of fear, distress, and social bonding;
- modern medical simulation technologies are widely available and are increasingly used in military medical training;
- over 70 percent of NATO member nations have already transitioned away from the use of animals in military medical training;
- documents obtained through Access to Information requests indicate that anatomical differences make pigs poor models for training medics to treat human injuries and may create 'training scars' where techniques learned on animals do not translate properly to human casualties; and
- records indicate that hundreds of piglets have been used in Canadian military training exercises despite the availability of more humane and scientifically relevant alternatives.

We, the undersigned, **Citizens and residents of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to prohibit the use of live animals, including piglets, in *Canadian Armed Forces* medical and trauma training and to transition fully to modern, non-animal simulation technologies.

PETITION – WILD-CAUGHT PRIMATES: A *Government of Canada* petition e-7020 (Environment) sponsored by BC *Conservative MP Mel Arnold*. We signed it on March 30, 2026. According to the ***Animal Protection Party of Canada***, Toronto, ON, March 12, 2026 email: "... Thousands of endangered long-tailed macaques continue to be imported into Canada, destined for use in laboratory experiments. Despite mounting evidence of illegal trafficking, falsified permits, and serious public health risks, the *Canadian government* has failed to prioritize protecting this endangered species. ..."

"Petition to the Minister of the *Environment, Climate Change and Nature*

Whereas:

- Long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), the most heavily traded primate for experimentation, were uplisted to 'Endangered' by the IUCN in 2022, a status reaffirmed in October 2025;
- Cambodia is Canada's primary source of imported long-tailed macaques;
- A five-year U.S. federal investigation found Cambodia's supply chain laundered wild-caught macaques as captive-bred;
- Despite this and the species' endangered status, Canada allowed the import of over 10,000 macaques from Cambodia between 2023 and 2025;
- Trafficking has continued, with Thai authorities uncovering ongoing smuggling of wild macaques destined for Cambodia in November 2025;
- *Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)* stated in response to e-petition e-6537 that it has 'not seen evidence' of falsified Cambodian permits, yet appears to have conducted no independent verification;
- ECCC has authority to investigate wildlife-trade violations and verify permit authenticity;
- Listing the species in Schedule II of Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations (WAPTR) would require domestic import permits, enabling legality and traceability checks—an approach ECCC used in restricting salamander imports in 2017/2018; and
- Canada has a responsibility to apply the precautionary principle to avoid enabling illegal trade or contributing to the decline of an endangered species.

We, the undersigned, citizens and residents of Canada call upon the **Minister of the *Environment, Climate Change and Nature*** to:

1. Launch an investigation into the legality, traceability, and authenticity of CITES permits used for the import of Cambodian long-tailed macaques into Canada under the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act; and
2. Add long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) to Schedule II of WAPTR to enable the *Ministry* to require and assess its own import permits." [A disappointing response was tabled by the Minister July 22, 2026.]

Response from **Julie Dabrusin**, Minister of the *Environment, Climate Change and Nature*, May 29, 2026 to our November

6, 2025 email. Nothing we haven't heard before: "... *Environment and Climate Change Canada* monitors trade to ensure wildlife imports comply with existing acts and regulations *Environment and Climate Change Canada* enforcement officers will continue to review export permits and supporting documentation to verify compliance, in co-operation and co-ordination with other relevant federal departments and agencies. If non-compliance is identified, departmental enforcement officers will take appropriate action"

LET'S END RODEO CRUELTY FOR THE SAKE OF THE ANIMALS: The ***Vancouver Humane Society***, Vancouver, BC, sent us an email June 16, 2026 asking for support to help end *government* funding and have rodeos banned in British Columbia. They provided a sample letter which we modified and on June 26, 2026 it was individually emailed to BC's NDP MPPs: **Premier Eby**; Minister of Agriculture and Food **Lana Popham**; Attorney General **Niki Sharma** and Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sports **Anne Kang**.

We are concerned about the *B.C. government's* continued funding of rodeo events and the lack of protections for animals used in rodeos. A recent incident at this year's Cloverdale rodeo involving a contestant and a horse falling and being injured during a bucking event highlights ongoing concerns about animal welfare at B.C. rodeos. This is not an isolated incident, with footage from other B.C. rodeos in recent years showing potentially illegal electric prod use, harsh handling, and significant risk of injury to animals.

The treatment of animals in roping, wrestling, bucking, and other high-risk and inhumane rodeo events is a long-overlooked animal welfare issue. A growing body of scientific research and public opposition to the use of animals in rodeo events and funding of such events demonstrates the urgent need for *government* action on this issue.

Research shows that animals experience acute stress, fear and discomfort during rodeo events. This is evident through elevated stress hormones and visible signs of stress, including widening of the eyes, excessive drooling, signs of urination and defecation, vocalization, open mouth, extended tongue, tension in the body and resisting handlers. Animals bucking and fleeing from rodeo participants in the arena are exhibiting a 'fight or flight' response, similar to how they, as prey animals, would react to a predator.

Public polling in recent years reflects strong and growing opposition to rodeo and to the *government's* funding of such events. Polling by Research Co. in 2024 found the following:

- 77% of British Columbians oppose calf roping;
- 66% oppose bronc and bull riding;
- 75% oppose steer wrestling;
- 83% oppose *government* funding for rodeos.

The ***Vancouver Humane Society*** has repeatedly documented and reported incidents of inhumane treatment of animals at rodeo events in B.C., including several that have received *B.C. government* funding. Disappointingly, the evidence provided, which includes video footage of animals being repeatedly choked and dragged by a rope around their neck, hit, kicked, and having their ears and tails pulled and twisted, has been deemed not enough to pursue cruelty charges. In any other setting this would be considered animal cruelty, yet in a rodeo arena it is not only allowed, it is considered standard practice by the *B.C. government*.

This mistreatment of animals for the sake of public entertainment can no longer be condoned. **In light of the systemic animal welfare issues and significant public opposition to the use of animals in rodeo, we are urging the *B.C. government* to prohibit inhumane rodeo events and to no longer provide public funding to rodeos. Rodeos should NOT be able to contravene the LAW.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this important animal welfare issue. We hope that you will respond to our concerns.

CALGARY STAMPEDE: News Blog posted by the ***Vancouver Humane Society***, Vancouver, BC, July 2, 2026 provided a sample letter and a **#SayNoToRodeo** Pledge. July 6, 2026 we emailed our personalized version of their letter through their web page. They were sending the letter to Calgary City Councillors, Calgary Mayor **Jeromy Farkas** and **Tanya Fir**, Alberta's Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women.

We urge you to advocate for the removal of the rodeo and chuckwagon races from the Calgary Stampede program. As valued partners of the Calgary Stampede, the *City of Calgary* and the *Alberta Government* are uniquely positioned to support these much-needed changes. A growing body of scientific research and public opposition to the use of animals in rodeo events, and funding of such events, demonstrates the urgent need for *government* action on this issue.

These inhumane and deadly events cause significant suffering and have resulted in near-annual animal deaths

at the Stampede, despite failed attempts by Stampede organizers to improve safety. In 2025, a horse died after suffering a serious leg injury during the chuckwagon races. In 2024 alone, four animals died: three horses during chuckwagon races and one steer whose neck was broken in a wrestling event.

Rodeo events depend on inducing fear, pain, and stress to force animals to "perform." Tools and handling methods exploit prey animals' natural "fight or flight" instincts to provoke bucking or fleeing.

Footage from these events regularly shows animals in distress, including thrashing in chutes, resisting handlers, and displaying signs of fear such as defecation, drooling, widened eyes, and open mouths.

Chuckwagon races, dubbed the "half-mile of hell," are especially hazardous due to the speed and tight proximity of the horses and wagons.

Recent Research Co. polls show that a majority of Canadians and Albertans oppose the use of animals in rodeos and the allocation of public funds to support them. Encouragingly, polling also indicates that removing these events would have little to no effect on Stampede attendance and could even attract new visitors. This mistreatment of animals for the sake of public entertainment can no longer be condoned.

Therefore, we urge you to immediately begin the process of removing the rodeo and chuckwagon races and instead champion the many other Stampede attractions that celebrate community without causing animal harm.

We look forward to your response and hope to see leadership that embraces compassion and progress.

July 6, 2026 we signed the **Vancouver Humane Society's #SayNoToRodeo** Pledge. They will share the number of signatures with the decision-makers. "I am opposed to the use of animals in rodeo events that put them at unnecessary risk of injury and death and that utilize fear, stress and discomfort to make them 'perform'. I pledge not to attend Calgary Stampede rodeo events, including roping, wrestling, and bucking events, as well as the chuckwagon races, and encourage decision-makers to remove them from the Calgary Stampede program."

FARMED ANIMALS ARE AMONG THE LEAST LEGALLY PROTECTED IN CANADA: July 2, 2026 the **Animal Justice Action Team**, Toronto, Ontario, was asking for help in telling the "... *Federal Government*: *Farmed Animals Need Real Laws*". Using their sample letter, we personalized it, and on July 16 and 17, 2026, we individually emailed it to 172 *Liberal* MPs including **Prime Minister Carney**, 1 *Green Party* MP and 1 *Independent* MP.

We urge you to support meaningful reform of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) and its current system for developing farmed animal welfare standards in Canada.

While NFACC is often presented as a national authority on farmed animal welfare, it remains a private, industry-led body whose Codes of Practice are voluntary guidelines rather than enforceable laws. The current structure gives the animal agriculture industry disproportionate influence over the development and approval of these standards.

As a result, NFACC's Codes continue to permit cruel, inhumane practices that have already been phased out, heavily restricted or banned in many other jurisdictions around the world. These include lifelong cage confinement for hens, gestation crates for pigs, tethering of dairy cows, painful mutilations performed without adequate pain control, and violent killing methods such as blunt force trauma.

A system that allows the regulated industry to dominate decision-making cannot provide the level of transparency, accountability and public confidence that Canadians expect.

Therefore, we urge NFACC and its members to:

- Reform NFACC's governance structure to reduce industry dominance and strengthen independent representation.
- Establish transparent oversight and accountability measures for Code development and reviews.
- Commit to working within Code Committees to phase out practices that have already been banned or heavily restricted in other countries.
- Ensure future standards reflect independent science, public expectations and international best practices.

Canada has an opportunity to build a credible and modern animal welfare system that the public can trust. This requires moving beyond an industry-led voluntary framework toward one grounded in transparency, independence and accountability.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please keep in mind that currently there is no federal law setting enforceable standards for how animals are treated on farms, and what you do, or don't do, will impact hundreds

of millions of animals. With no comprehensive federal legislation and no consistent enforcement, farm animals are left with no meaningful legal protection.

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 2026 we helped individuals with some of the cost of cats with: a liver/thyroid issue, ear wound, eye infection, antibiotics, pain and other medication, and 1 cat spay (not in Ottawa); guinea pig with eye cysts. We helped cat rescue groups with some of the cost of 1 spay/1 neuter, UTI medication, 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.**

ADLC'S SPAY PROJECT: This project began in early 2023 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 Program (ODSP) benefits, 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 July 9 dogs were spayed through this project.

MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA'S AGM, March 29, 2026, 1:30 pm, St. Laurent Complex, Visual Arts Studio, 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 30, 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM): **MOTION:** The March 30, 2025 AGM minutes be accepted as presented. **MOVED** by J. Bélair. **SECONDED** by B. Bernhardt. **CARRIED** with no objections.

TREASURER'S REPORT: 2025 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, 2025. **MOTION:** Accept the Review Engagement Financial Statements and Report prepared by **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** for the year ending December 31, 2025. **MOVED** by R. Farley. **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 2026 financial year. **MOVED** by J. Bélair. **SECONDED** by B. Bernhardt. **CARRIED** with no objections.

Have Appointed Public Accountant Conduct a Year-End Review Engagement for 2026: **MOTION:** The Directors of **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA** are authorized to have **Baker Tilly Ottawa LLP** conduct a year-end Review Engagement for 2026 and prepare our Financial Statements Report and tax forms for 2026 on behalf of the **ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA**. **MOVED** by J. Bélair. **SECONDED** by R. Farley. **CARRIED** with no objections.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT: 2026-2027 ADLC Directors: R. Farley presented the list of candidates to serve as Directors on the **ADLC's** Board for 2026-2027: 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 J. Bélair. **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 2025 we helped individuals with some of the cost of: a guinea pig with a possible ovarian cyst being evaluated/treated; and different cats – damaged tongue, not eating, medication to treat a liver ailment; a cat with a gas issue, urinary tract infection, behavioural problem, elderly cat evaluated due to health and well-being concerns. We helped cat rescue groups with some of the cost of 5 cat euthanasias, 12 spays/neuters, vaccinations/deworming/defleaing, eye surgery, cat food and medications. 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.

ADLC ADVERTISING: ADLC'S SPAY/NEUTER FUND AND ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH FUND: A full-page ad was placed in the March/April and October 2025 *Fifty-Five Plus Lifestyle* magazine, Ottawa edition. Our ad promoted **ADLC's** Spay/Neuter Fund and non-animal-using Alternative Research Fund. Our "BE KIND TO ANIMALS. DON'T EXPLOIT THEM." half page ad in the University of Victoria's *The Martlet* student newspaper, Victoria, BC, published monthly from September 2025 to April 2026. It was a general information ad listing some of the animal issues we promote.

"PUPPIES SLIP THROUGH THE CRACKS", a petition by the **Ottawa Humane Society**, Ottawa Ontario, to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We signed it November 14, 2025. It asked the *Government of Ontario* to strengthen the PUPs [Preventing Unethical Puppy Sales] regulations. [See **ADLC** Bulletin #207 - SPRING/SUMMER 2026.]

WILDLIFE PROTECTION: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PETITION e-5269 (Animals) – Ban Fur Farming: On January 17, 2025 we signed this petition. It was asking the *government* to ban the fur farming of all animals. A February 4, 2025 response from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Market and Industry Services Branch, *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada* to a 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, and that “... most livestock and poultry sectors have implemented on-farm animal care assessment programs, which are based on the requirements of the Code. ... 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. ...” [See **ADLC** Bulletin #206 - FALL/WINTER 2025.]

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PETITION e-6589 (Animals) – Ban Fur Farming: July 10, 2025 **ADLC** signed this petition. With the exception of one point that was deleted, and two words added, it was identical to Petition e-5269 that we signed January 17, 2025. It was asking the “... **Government of Canada** to prohibit the practice of fur farming for all species of animals.” [See **ADLC** Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.]

This petition was presented in the *House of Commons* on October 2, 2025. A *government* response was tabled November 17, 2025, signed by **The Honorable Heath MacDonald**, Minister of *Agriculture and Agri-Food*. As expected, it too was disappointing. Here is an excerpt: “... Canadian provinces, as enabled under the *Constitution Act*, have the primary responsibility for protecting the welfare of animals, including farm animals and pets. ... Federally, the Criminal Code of Canada prohibits anyone from willfully causing animals to suffer from neglect, pain, and injury. ... Fur farming remains a legal and regulated industry under existing frameworks in Canada, and any future changes will be guided by comprehensive risk assessments and stakeholder consultations.” [See **ADLC** Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.]

THE USE OF CO₂ GAS TO EUTHANIZE GEESE CAUSES THEM PROLONGED SUFFERING AND DISTRESS: May 12, 2025 we emailed our personalized letter [Sample letter provided by *In Defense of Animals*, San Rafael, CA.] to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) urging them 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. A common method used in these roundups involves placing geese in mobile gas chambers and exposing them to CO₂. Its use raises serious ethical concerns and lacks sufficient scientific support to be considered humane.

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. We asked they Instead give their 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. [See **ADLC** Bulletin #206 – FALL/WINTER 2025.]

CANADA GEESE SAFER IN MICHIGAN FOR THE TIME BEING: An April 28, 2025 email from *In Defense of Animals*, San Rafael, CA, 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. 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. ...” [See **ADLC** Bulletin #206 – FALL/WINTER 2025.]

US ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: May 15, 2025 we emailed a letter to the **Trump** administration asking them to 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. We should be doing everything we can to save the planet and all that depend on it, and not endlessly exploiting and destroying it. Keep wildlife habitat protections in place, do not weaken them. [See **ADLC** Bulletin #206 - FALL/WINTER 2025.]

ONTARIO'S FORD GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED WAR ON WILDLIFE: Bill S-5 – *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act*, 2025 - 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. We received quite a number of supportive replies.

Bill 5 will repeal the Endangered Species Act entirely. It 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. 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 had personalized a sample letter provided by **Wildlands League**, Toronto, ON.]

ADLC signed a petition to “Stop Bill 5” on June 6, 2025. We found out too late that Bill 5 had been passed on June 4, 2025. Its approval is facing court challenges. [See **ADLC** Bulletin #206 – FALL/WINTER 2025.]

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT GOES AFTER BEAVERS: September 29, 2025 we submitted our comments on ERO #025-0781: Proposals to reduce regulatory and administrative burden, and enable increased economic opportunities for licensed trappers and fur dealers. Animal traps do not discriminate as to what species may become their victims, and they do not always kill instantly. Expanding trapping on Crown land during the closed season could disrupt and threaten ecosystems, waterways, and biodiversity. Permitting trappers to use pistols after dark increases the risk of animal suffering. Reducing reporting requirements for fur dealers will make it more difficult to ensure that trapping practices comply with humane and environmental standards. It is essential to ensure that trapping practices comply with the required standards.

There just isn't any justification for this killing of beavers, or the accidental injuring/killing of any other animal species that might be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

October 2, 2025, we received an email from the *Environmental Registry of Ontario* advising us: “Your comment on ERO no 025-0781 (Comment ID: 1.....3) has been approved for publishing. Others will be able to read it online when the decision for this proposal is posted ...” [See **ADLC** Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.]

LEGALIZED ANIMAL CRUELTY. When will it stop?: November 21, 2025 we emailed a letter to Ontario **Premier Ford** opposing “Train and Trial” areas. A law was passed in 1997 to phase it out. In penned dog hunts, coyotes, foxes, and rabbits are captured from the wild, confined in fenced-in areas, and used as live bait. This cruel bloodsport is widely condemned by Ontarians and poses a significant risk to public health. Ontario is the only province in Canada to allow this cruel activity. Dogs not only learn to track the animals—they frequently attack, injure, and even viciously kill them. Dogs are often injured during these fights as well. We asked the *government* to reverse its plan to issue new permits, and instead focus on shutting down the few remaining pens in the province. [See **ADLC** Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.]

FOOD ANIMALS: BAN INHUMANE LIVE HORSE EXPORTS BY AIR FOR SLAUGHTER: January 17, 2025 we emailed our personalized letter [Sample letter provided by **Animal Justice Academy**, Toronto, ON.] to **Lawrence MacAuley**, federal Minister of *Agriculture* urging him to ban the overseas export of live horses to where they will be slaughtered for human consumption. Two new and shocking investigations had shown that the suffering these horses endure is even worse than was previously known. Footage of horses landing at Japanese airports and heading to quarantine facilities showed most exports exceeded the 28-hour legal time limit for travel without food, water, and rest. Additionally, records from Japan revealed that a shocking 22 horses died from these shipments between June 2023 and June 2024 alone. More than 60 others suffered from injuries and illness during this time. None of the deaths, injuries, or illnesses were reported to the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND THE 2025 CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION: Our personalized 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. Some of the points raised: Update the Criminal Code provisions on animal cruelty; pass legislation that recognizes animals as the sentient beings that they are, rather than property; mandatory video surveillance at industrial livestock factory-farms and at slaughterhouses in Canada is urgently needed, ban the inhumane live horse exports by air for slaughter for human consumption, etc. We received a few supportive replies from MPs. [See **ADLC** Bulletin #206 - FALL/WINTER 2025.]

PLANT-CENTRIC PLEDGE from the **Humane World for Animals** (Headquarters in Washington, DC with a location in Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC): March 28, 2025 we signed this 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.”

SHOCKING FOOTAGE OF ANIMAL CRUELTY AT JOHNSTON MEATS' SLAUGHTERHOUSE, CHILLIWACK, BC: Canadian Laws and Codes of Practice are NOT Working Well on Behalf of the Animals. April 11, 2025 we individually emailed our personalized letter to **BC Premier Eby** and to **BC Agriculture and Food Minister Popham**. Footage, taken by a whistleblower, alleged to be from Johnston's Meats, a Chilliwack-based pig slaughterhouse, showed terrified pigs being inhumanely handled, improperly stunned, and still conscious when their necks were cut and they were hung upside down to bleed out. 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.

The *government* needs to prioritize this important animal welfare issue and take urgent action to protect some of our society's most vulnerable animals. We urged them to ensure that regulations and standards are based on the best available animal welfare science and that they are *government*-mandated and proactively enforced. Oversight and enforcement measures should include consistent video surveillance monitoring and unannounced inspections and audits, which are made publicly available. Appropriate deterrents and penalties are also necessary to prevent cruelty in the first place and to provide accountability.

May 6, 2025 a reply from BC's Executive Director, Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch, *Ministry of Agriculture and Food*. We were informed that the Meat Inspection Program (MIP) had conducted a review of the approximately 850 video files submitted by **Animal Justice**, had 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 though they identified 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. ..." [See **ADLC Bulletin #206 - FALL/WINTER 2025**.]

PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDERS (PBR): Once again, this traveling show was coming to Ottawa on June 14. The **Ottawa Humane Society (OHS)** had started a petition to *Ottawa City Hall* opposing the cruel treatment to animals and passing it off as entertainment. **ADLC** signed their petition on June 2, 2025. [See **ADLC Bulletin #206 - FALL/WINTER 2025**.]

END STADIUM BULL RIDING IN OTTAWA: September 12, 2025 we emailed our personalized letter to Ottawa's **Mayor Sutcliffe**. We urged him to take action to end cruel bull riding events within Ottawa city limits. These events rely on practices that deliberately distress animals for the sake of entertainment. [See **ADLC Bulletin #207 - SPRING/SUMMER 2026**.]

CHANGE THE LAWS TO BETTER PROTECT ALL ANIMALS. WHAT WE HAVE NOW IS NOT WORKING VERY WELL: June 26 and 27, 2025 we emailed our personalized letter [Sample letter provided by **Animal Justice**, Toronto, ON.] to all of the newly elected *Liberal* MPs, including the Prime Minister. [See **ADLC Bulletin #206 - FALL/WINTER 2025**.] 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 turn those promises into action.

Specifically, we asked them 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.

Also, to 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.).

June 26, 2025 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. **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. [See **ADLC Bulletin #206 - FALL/WINTER 2025**.]

BC'S UNIVERSAL OSTRICH FARM: October 17, 2025 **ADLC** signed this *House of Commons* Petition e-6857 (Animals). Points raised: "... **1.** Direct the Ministers of *Agriculture and Health* to immediately pause any cull pending independent veterinary assessment of evidence-based alternatives, including vaccination, treatment, or surveillance protocols; **2.** Require the Standing Committees on *Agriculture and Health* to urgently examine this matter, receive testimony from *CFIA* and affected parties, and report recommendations for modernizing Canada's disease response to balance public health, animal welfare, and fiscal responsibility; and **3.** Mandate full transparency from *CFIA* through immediate public release of all non-sensitive records regarding decision-making, animal welfare protocols, and operational costs." [See **ADLC Bulletin #207- SPRING/SUMMER 2026**.]

Unfortunately, the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency* shot to death hundreds of the birds the evening of November 6, 2025.

ANIMALS IN CANADA DESPERATELY NEED AND DESERVE BETTER ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS: November 21, 2025 we emailed our personalized letter [Sample letter provided by *Animal Justice*, Toronto, ON.] to **Prime Minister Carney** with a copy to **Justice Minister Sean Fraser**. Canada has some of the worst animal protection laws in the Western world. The farming industry—which killed over 859 million land animals in 2023—is responsible for significant animal suffering, and there are no federal laws regulating on-farm animal welfare. As our political representatives, they have the ability and responsibility to support and promote new laws protecting animals. We asked them to take swift action to introduce national animal welfare legislation in Canada to protect some of the most vulnerable members of society. [See **ADLC Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.**]

BAN THE FORCE-FEEDING OF DUCKS AND GEES: We signed this *House of Commons* petition, e-6771 (Animals), on November 21, 2025. [Excerpt:] “... We, the undersigned, **citizens and residents of Canada**, call upon the **Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food** to enact legislation banning the practice of force-feeding ducks and geese for the production of foie gras, banning the importation and sale of foie gras produced by such force-feeding, and providing financial assistance and guidance to producers for transitioning to plant-based agriculture.” See **ADLC Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.**]

OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZING ANIMAL SENTIENCE: *Government of Canada* Petition e-6955 (Animals): We signed it on November 28, 2025. [Excerpt:] “... We, the undersigned, ... call upon the **Government of Canada** to pass legislation that recognizes animals as the sentient beings they are, rather than mere property.” [See **ADLC Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.**]

EXPERIMENTATION: “ONTARIO MUST PHASE OUT ANIMAL TESTING”: Using a sample letter provided by the **Ottawa Humane Society**, Ottawa, ON, their August 28, 2025 email, September 12, 2025 **ADLC** emailed our modified letter to Ontario **Premier Ford**. We asked the *government* “... to invest in non-animal testing methods that will support our province's research and development initiatives Advances in science have resulted in accurate, ethical and cost-effective alternatives to animal testing. These methods not only spare animals from unnecessary suffering but also help reduce costly failures in clinical trials by providing results that are more directly relevant to human biology.” [See **ADLC Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.**]

BAN THE IMPORT, SALE AND EXPLOITIVE USE OF WILD-CAUGHT PRIMATES: November 6, 2025 we sent emails to the federal Minister of *Health* **Marjorie Michel** and to the Minister of *Environment and Climate Change and Nature* **Julie Dabrusin**. We told them we supported immediate *government* action to ban the import to Canada, as well as the sale and use of wild-caught endangered macaques in Canada. Canada has become one of the world's top importers of wild-caught endangered macaques. Between 2021 and 2023, Canada imported **1,796** wild macaques for the research and testing industries. These animals suffer immensely during their capture, transport and final confinement in laboratories. They also pose serious public health risks due to the potential of zoonotic disease transmission. Canada should invest in cruelty-free, human-relevant research methods.

Petition e-6537 (Environment) was presented in the *House of Commons* on October 21, 2025. The Minister of *Environment and Climate Change and Nature* **The Honourable Julie Dabrusin's** response was tabled December 4, 2025. Canada is waiting on the Standing Committee's (to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) decisions, resulting from a November 23, 2025 meeting and the Secretariat's report before taking any action. [See **ADLC Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.**]

FUND A NATIONAL CENTER FOR ANIMAL-FREE RESEARCH: We signed a petition to the *Government of Canada*, e-6841 (Animals), on November 14, 2025: It asked the *Government of Canada* to: Excerpt: “**1.** Develop a national roadmap for validating and implementing non-animal methods, setting targets to reduce animal use in research and regulatory testing (50% by 2030, full replacement where feasible by 2035); **2.** Allocate sustainable federal funding to a national center to lead the transition to animal-free research and testing; **3.** Mandate public research institutions and granting councils to prioritize NAMs [New Approach Methodologies], with replacement as the default; **4.** Amend federal laws and regulations to recognize NAMs as the standard, restricting animal use whenever alternatives exist; and **5.** Establish mandatory public reporting on NAMs adoption rates, federal funding, and animal use in the public and private sectors.” [See **ADLC Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.**]

“HUMANE SCIENCE: The smart investment for tomorrow”: November 21, 2025 we signed the **Humane World for Animals'** (Montreal, QC) letter to the *Prime Minister* and Officials of the Prime Minister's Office. We asked for “immediate federal investment in New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)—innovative, cruelty-free technologies that not only protect animals from painful experiments but also have the potential to drive economic growth and create high-quality jobs in biotechnology, data science and research. The letter asked the *government* to: “... Declare NAMs a national research priority” and to “Stop funding projects that rely solely on animal experiments and exclude NAMs”. [See **ADLC Bulletin #207 – SPRING/SUMMER 2026.**]

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 2:55 pm. **MOVED** by R. Farley. **SECONDED** by J. 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.

ANIMAL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA

P.O. Box 3880, Stn. C, Ottawa, Ont., K1Y 4M5 (613)233-6117

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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.