



## TALKING POINTS

Web: [www.defendhorsescanada.org](http://www.defendhorsescanada.org)  
Blog: <http://canadianhorsesdefencecoalition.wordpress.com/>  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CanadianHorseDefenceCoalition](http://www.facebook.com/CanadianHorseDefenceCoalition)  
Contact us: [info@defendhorsescanada.org](mailto:info@defendhorsescanada.org)

### A CALL TO END HORSE SLAUGHTER IN CANADA

*Our mission is to work collectively with individuals and groups to help protect equines in Canada from slaughter and the export of live equines for slaughter by raising public awareness through education, and helping to achieve the enactment of legislation that will ban these practices in Canada.*

Former NDP MP Alex Atamanenko previously introduced 3 bills to end horse slaughter in Canada that did not gain MP support in a majority Conservative government. In January 2014, he introduced Bill C-571, an Act to amend the Meat Inspection Act and the Safe Food for Canadians Act, prohibiting conveying, importing or exporting horses or horsemeat for human consumption, with the exception of horses that are raised from birth with lifetime medical records. This bill was unfortunately defeated in May 2014. Under the new Liberal majority government, we must now re-establish legislation to end this industry in Canada.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada reports that 67,894 horses died in Canadian slaughterhouses in 2015, up slightly over 2014. Incredibly, since 1989, over 2 million horses have perished in Canadian slaughter plants. There are currently 5 federally licensed plants operating in Canada (1 in BC, 2 in Alberta, and 2 in Quebec).

In 2014, 60% of these horses originated from the U.S. where horse slaughter ended in 2007, however, exports still continue. U.S. citizens fought hard to close the industry, but until legislation is passed to stop exports, horses will continue to be shipped to Canada and Mexico. A market for horsemeat for human consumption exists in Europe and Asia but the majority of Canadians do not support it. An Ipsos-Reid poll reveals that nearly 2/3 of Canadians do not believe in killing horses for human consumption.

**Please continue to contact your Member of Parliament and ask that they support or consider introducing legislation that would prohibit the slaughter of horses in Canada.**

To find your MP online: Google "find your MP by postal code".

Send emails and letters, then follow up by phone. Gather signatures on the petition available on the CHDC website. Remind them that drugs which are prohibited for use during the life of any animal destined for the human food supply are routinely being administered to horses. Former MP Atamanenko states, "It is irresponsible of Canada to allow the sale of meat from horses that have not been raised according to the food safety practices required for all other animals. For example, there is the issue of phenylbutazone. "Bute" is a known carcinogen that is banned from use in any animal entering the food chain."

Also contact the Ministry of Health, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the federal agencies responsible for horse slaughter in Canada, as well as members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food.

#### Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health

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#### Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

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#### Dr. Bruce Archibald, President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

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#### Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, CFIA

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#### Dr. Martine Dubuc, Chief Food Safety Officer, CFIA

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#### Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

Email: [AGRI@parl.gc.ca](mailto:AGRI@parl.gc.ca); Website: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/AGRI>  
Tel: 613.992.3150

Health of Animals Act: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/H-3.3/>  
Meat Inspection Act: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-3.2/>

• Horses are not traditionally raised for human consumption in North America. 60% of horses killed in Canada are from the U.S. where no identification system for horses exists. Canada's Equine Identification Document system is highly flawed and does not guarantee truth or accuracy.

Horsemeat products are likely to contain prohibited substances such as Phenylbutazone, Ventipulmin, and Nitrofurans.

CFIA list of drugs not permitted for use in equines: [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/meavia/man/ch17/annexe\\_e.shtml#e5](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/meavia/man/ch17/annexe_e.shtml#e5).

• The European Union banned the sale of horsemeat from Mexico in January 2015, as it does not meet food safety standards. It was stated that a 6-month quarantine rule would soon apply in Canada, but this has not materialized yet. These actions were taken to stop, or make difficult, the importation of U.S. horses for slaughter, as the EU is cognizant of the risks of North American horsemeat.

The CFIA has stated that they are not responsible for the oversight of equine feedlots, where horribly neglectful conditions already exist. The CHDC has reported on the vast Alberta feedlots where thousands of horses are held prior to slaughter in filthy, overcrowded and bio-hazardous settings, where medical oversight is practically non-existent. See the CHDC's "The True Faces of Horse Slaughter: Inside Alberta's Horse Feedlots".

• Horses are companion animals and working partners and are considered to be man's second best friend. Many Canadians believe that this industry must be abolished on humane grounds. 64% of Canadians do not support it. The horse slaughter process itself is not humane euthanasia. It is a predatory business that sustains a culture of cruelty to horses.

• The CHDC has compelling evidence of horse cruelty and suffering as a result of rough handling and poor slaughter practices at 4 Canadian horse slaughter plants, all of which can be viewed on our web site.

• Dr. Nicholas Dodman, an expert in animal behaviour and anesthesiology at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine said this of our 2011 "Pasture to Plate" report: "...my final conclusion, after reviewing 150-plus horse slaughtered in this series of videos, is that the process was disgusting to me, terrifying for most of the horses and, in many cases, horribly inhumane."

Also, Dr. Debi Zimmermann, DVM in Alberta, stated upon viewing footage from Bouvry Exports (AB) and Viande Richelieu (QC) in April 2010: "I conclude that the wary and flighty nature of the horse, coupled with the poorly designed kill plant systems currently in place at Bouvry Exports and Viande Richelieu, results in unacceptable levels of suffering endured by horses (both in number of horses and degree of suffering), and poses inherent dangers to plant personnel."

• The Federal Health of Animals Act, which would protect sick, pregnant and unfit horses and would prohibit overcrowding, is not enforced. As well, the Recommended Code of Practice for Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation of Horses, is not enforced.

The CFIA does not enforce their own weak rules that slaughter bound horses must not be transported for longer than 36 hours straight and must be provided with feed, water and rest at required intervals. Horses are shipped in crowded trailers over long distances and often arrive injured – sometimes fatally.



*A Belgian mare comforts her foal amongst mud, rocks and tires at an Ontario kill buyer feedlot.*



*A frightened Appaloosa has taken her final steps inside a Quebec slaughterhouse kill box.*



*Large draft horses caged 3 and 4 to a crate, about to ship from Calgary Airport to Japan – overcrowded and without food and water.*