



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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Ontario Members of Parliament

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 36,000 family farm businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of our robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

On behalf of Ontario's farmers, we are writing with regards Bill C-246, a Private Member's Bill to amend the Criminal Code, the Fisheries Act, the Textile Labelling Act, the Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act, Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act and the Canada Consumer Products Safety Act (animal protection).

We are told the fundamental intent of Bill C-246 is to address the practice of shark finning and the labelling of textiles containing cat and dog fur. We are not opposed to this initiative. However, Bill C-246 proposes a number of significant changes to the "animal cruelty" provisions in the Criminal Code, which threaten animal agriculture and other legitimate animal use activities. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture categorically opposes the proposed Criminal Code amendments in Bill C-246.

The Criminal Code has longstanding and extensive provisions against cruelty to animals. The courts have interpreted these provisions as permitting a range of lawful activities, including animal agriculture, livestock slaughter, hunting, fishing, etc. Canada has collaboratively developed codes of practice for the care and handling of farm animals. These codes are routinely reviewed and updated, and serve to guide farm animal care practices.

On behalf of Ontario farmers, OFA urges you to support our opposition to the proposed Criminal Code amendments in Bill C-246. We are not opposed to the other provisions addressing bestiality, shark finning and labelling textiles containing cat and dog fur.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McCabe'.

Don McCabe
President

cc: Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
OFA Board of Directors
County Federation Presidents