



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00655**

BY: **MRS. MENDÈS (BROSSARD—SAINT-LAMBERT)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 29, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE LAWRENCE MACAULAY, PC, MP**

Response by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

SIGNATURE
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT
Animal transportation

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada takes the issue of animal welfare very seriously and believes that animals must be protected from unnecessary suffering. The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food notes the concerns the petitioners have raised related to the treatment of animals during transportation, and would like to share some information on these points.

Under its federal mandate, the role of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is to verify that livestock is transported, handled, and slaughtered in a humane manner. The CFIA's responsibility regarding animal welfare relates to humane transportation and humane slaughter under the acts and regulations administered by the CFIA. The Health of Animals Regulations prohibits the transportation of any animal in a way that could lead to injury or undue suffering.

The Government has recognized that new international standards and scientific developments in animal physiology, welfare and health, changing societal expectations, and the needs of all animals during transport warrant the review of the Canadian regulations regarding the humane transportation of animals. In addition, the CFIA recognizes the link between animal health and welfare, and the potential impact of these issues on human health. As such, the Government of Canada is committed to updating the current animal transport regulations, and has already undertaken significant consultations with stakeholders in this regard.

It is anticipated that formal proposals for modernization of this regulatory framework will be submitted in the near future, providing further opportunity for stakeholder input regarding these regulations.

Transport times, animal welfare training, transport conditions and maximum intervals without access to feed, water and rest have been reviewed, and the proposed amendment strikes a balance between the scientific literature, international standards, societal expectations and industry logistics.

The CFIA uses a graduated approach to enforcement. When determining the gravity of the non-compliance, the CFIA assesses the harm posed by the action, the compliance history of the regulated party, and the intent to knowingly commit an offence.