

Greetings,

I am a young person who supports protecting animals and improving animal welfare laws. I also support strengthening animal welfare laws for the sake of human health and disease reduction. I respectfully oppose C-205 and believe that instead of targeting animal advocates, we should instead target farmers to improve their animal welfare standards.

There is no legislative gap that this bill would address. It's already an offence to trespass on farms, and to harm or poison animals.

- Every province has anti-trespass legislation. People who enter farms without permission have already been prosecuted under these laws.
- It's illegal under the *Criminal Code* and provincial animal welfare legislation to harm or poison animals. Anyone who does so while trespassing on a farm could be prosecuted.

The real threat to biosecurity is farm practices, not animal advocates.

- There is not a single documented case of an animal advocate introducing a biosecurity threat onto a farm.
- Disease outbreaks occur regularly on farms, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency monitors these carefully and investigates them when they occur. Contamination is usually caused by farm staff working on multiple farms; sharing needles and equipment; contact with wild animals; or in the case of mad cow disease, by feeding ground up dead animals back to live animals. For example, recent COVID-19 outbreaks at mink farms in British Columbia and around the world were caused by infected workers, who then passed the virus on to minks.
- The real threat to biosecurity on farms is poor adherence to biosecurity protocols by farmers. That is why Bill C-205 is ag gag-style legislation, dressed up as a biosecurity bill. If Bill C-205 was truly intended to protect biosecurity on farms, it would apply to farmers, too.

Thank you for your time.

Have a great day, Rebecca Canright