

If there is one crisis right now, it is censorship. And Bill C-205 is a form of censorship.

It is an “ag-gag” bill disguised as a biosecurity bill.

We are being gagged on many levels today. We can’t discuss or examine any subjects that the Authorities don’t want discussed.

And here, the Authorities don’t want the treatment of animals discussed or examined. It might mean they would have to stop taking short-cuts that injure and cause suffering to animals.

They don’t want anyone knowing what cruelty is involved in the money-saving, time-saving, effort-saving short-cuts that they use, but that they can’t justify in the light of day.

Sure, we all love a short-cut, but from a young age we are hopefully taught that we shouldn’t take short-cuts that injure others.

And now, guided by science, we have learned that animals must be included in that category of the “others” whose welfare we must consider, by their very similarity to us in their ability to feel pain and fear.

So, don’t pretend that this bill addresses any need to protect animals. Just the opposite: it prevents the light of day from shining on the workings of farms. It prevents the transparency that is needed to insure that those into whose hands we have entrusted the care of animals, are meeting their responsibilities to the animals, and to us, the public.

Why are there are no federal or provincial animal welfare regulations protecting animals on farms?

And why must there be more secrecy? What is being hidden?

It is not as if these farms are not already scrutinized by inspectors to protect food safety, so no one is complaining about the government being too intrusive. The farms are in business, and so by definition are already required to meet safety standards which will be examined.

So what is the problem with allowing the details of their animal welfare practices to be known?

Only the guilty desire to hide their deeds. The food industries that support this bill are being disingenuous in their description of it as “protecting biosafety.” The only thing this bill protects are the industries who might be committing shameful and cruel practices of animal cruelty, and the short-cuts that increase their bottom line.