

Regarding Bill C-205

I am completely against the passing of Bill C-205.

As I understand it, Bill C-205 seems targeted directly at animal advocates. It states that its purpose is to protect biosecurity on farms, yet there has not been even a single documented case of an animal advocate introducing a biosecurity threat onto a farm. The real threat is poor adherence to biosecurity protocols by those working on the farms. For example, the recent Covid-19 outbreaks on mink farms in Canada and around the world were caused by infected workers who then passed the virus on to minks.

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

Animal welfare is a matter of intense public concern. Yet there are no federal or provincial animal welfare regulations protecting animals on farms. The Federal government only regulates transport and slaughter, leaving the farming industry to police itself in its treatment of the animals housed on the farm property. (Yes, there are animal cruelty laws, but if there is no one there to see and report the cruelty, how can those laws be enforced ?) Self-policing simply does not work, as we see over and over again in other sectors. Bill C-205 will simply increase the lack of transparency of intensive animal agriculture, and will thus ensure a further eroding of the shaky confidence that the public has in the “big business” that farming has become today.