

Canada has the shameful reputation of having some of the poorest animal transportation and “protection” laws in the developed world. Agricultural use is but one on an exhaustive list of so-called “accepted activities” that are exempt as long as “codes of practice” are followed. It has to be, because this industry could not exist if held to the same standard of care legally required of those with companion animals. We are told our laws are based on science and not emotion. So why is it that only those animals that we are emotionally attached to, those lucky enough to be deemed “pets,” are given a modicum of protection when science informs us that all are equally capable of suffering?

Compare that to what happens to hundreds of millions of farmed animals in this country every year. In the egg industry, male chicks are killed immediately after hatching by gassing, suffocation or being ground up alive in a macerator. Baby pigs are “euthanized” by swinging them by their hind legs and smashing their heads onto concrete. How can this be legal, you ask? Amazingly, euthanasia is another so-called “accepted activity” making it a most obscene oxymoron. A former Manitoba hog barn worker described how a sow was killed by hanging. Because of her thick, muscular neck it took 5 minutes before she finally strangled to death.

Animals are crowded into trailers in extremes of weather ranging from frigid cold to blistering heat with no food, water or rest to be transported to a slaughter house. A House of Slaughter.

According to CFIA statistics over 1.5 million suffer to death in transit. There are those who will survive the initial shackling, stunning and throat slitting and enter a scalding tank still alive. Their last experience on this earth, after a life not worth living, is to be scalded to death. And throughout their existence, the only time a few lucky ones may encounter human kindness will be through the ventilation holes of a trailer as activists show them some compassion or quench their thirst with water.

And Bill C-205 wants to criminalize that?

If we are so concerned about zoonosis, pandemics and biosecurity, why will throngs of children be allowed to interact with the residents of Aunt Sally's Farm at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo? Why are sheep, goats, calves and cattle from differing origins all paraded through the same auction ring with no disinfection in between? Why have we not shut down mink farms where Covid has proven to be bi-directional, jumping from humans to minks and back to humans again with the potential to merrily mutate along the way? Why are the corpses of victims of “depopulation” dumped at Winnipeg's Brady Landfill like so much garbage? Why do we continue the live export of millions of animals to 55 countries, including horses to Japan for slaughter to become a delicacy? Why are we not cracking down on the trade in wildlife?

And why are we not phasing out factory farming that has already given rise to, for example, swine flu in 2009 and avian flu in 2013 – no activists required? Factory farms check off all the boxes for conditions that could produce the next pandemic. Hundreds, if not thousands, of genetically similar animals are crammed into windowless warehouses, their lungs compromised by inhaling ammonia from their own

waste. Vectors of disease such as flies and rodents can move in and out of buildings making claims regarding biosecurity a moot point.

And what about farmers and workers who breach biosecurity protocol? Seventy-eight percent of antibiotics used in Canada are given to farmed animals leading to the evolution of super-bugs.

It is time we aligned our subsidies with Canada's Food Guide, a document produced by 37 scientists over 3 years with no industry influence.

The billions of dollars given to animal agriculture could be used to help transition farmers to compassionate, sustainable and healthy plant-based systems. Until that end is achieved we must bring our laws into the 21st Century, mandate the use of climate controlled transport trucks and install CCTV cameras in all facilities where animals are raised, transported and slaughtered so there is no doubt as to what conditions they must endure. Because what is truly a nightmare for this industry is not the possibility of animals being exposed to pathogens inadvertently introduced by activists, but the prospect of the suffering, both inherent and egregious, being exposed to public scrutiny.