

Written submission for the Pre-Budget  
Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming  
Federal Budget

By: Animal Protection Party of Canada

**Recommendation 1:** That the government implement a Minister for Animals, to act in the interest of non-human animals at the federal level, to intervene where legislation may affect non-human animals and their habitat, and to improve their status in Canadian society.

**Recommendation 2:** That the government conduct a national inquiry into the status and treatment of non-human animals in Canada to address systemic violence, exploitation, and cruelty against them, and to develop recommendations which will remedy these abuses.

**Recommendation 3:** That the government amend the Criminal Code of Canada to remove non-human animals from the property section and create a new definition which recognizes their standing as sentient beings.

**Recommendation 4:** That the government implement a commitment to a 70% reduction in the number of animals being raised and killed for consumption in Canada by 2030.

**Recommendation 5:** That the government create a fund to transition animal agriculture producers to plant-based production to meet the above goal in reducing animal production in Canada.

## **Body of the Submission**

It is the responsibility of federal, provincial and local government to provide leadership and education to the public on the most healthful, ethical, and sustainable food systems based on the available evidence. Furthermore, it should empower people to be able to participate and achieve these goals in the interest of best outcomes for people, animals, and the environment.

Our current food system is failing to promote healthy people and society, the well-being of animals and biodiversity, and the integrity of our ecological systems. It is not enough that we simply improve animal welfare and the conditions animals are raised in on farms. A food revolution is necessary to address these issues and it starts with immediate policy and regulatory change at all levels of government.

With many sectors of the animal agriculture industry currently in decline due to the widespread closure of restaurants which they supply, now is the time for the government to work with industries to begin to reduce animal agriculture in Canada and move to a greater reliance on vegetables, fruits, whole grains and non-animal protein foods instead of returning to pre-pandemic levels of animal production. This a rare opportunity for the Canadian food system to reflect the values set in Canada's recently adopted new [Food Guide](#).

The Animal Protection Party of Canada calls on the federal and provincial governments to take immediate action to reduce the likelihood of future zoonotic epidemics and pandemics, while promoting the general health of humans, animals, and the environment.

APPC calls on municipal governments, agencies such as school boards, the military, prisons, the health care community, and private enterprise and investment to embrace the change and align their policies, regulations and laws to reflect the direction of federal and provincial initiatives.

## **Alternatives**

At the centre of the proliferation and transmission of zoonotic diseases is the consumption of animals and the industrialized animal agriculture system.

As a baseline, the Animal Protection Party of Canada recognizes the easiest and more widely accessible option to reduce the spread of zoonotic diseases is to promote and educate people about the benefits of reducing and eliminating animal products from consumption.

Although plants are not a source of zoonotic diseases, many plants are grown using animal manure which can contain antibiotics used on the animals. This is why a standard has been developed that excludes any animal inputs, it is called: Biocyclic Vegan Agriculture (BVA). This is important because it breaks down the chain of dependence on animal agriculture by plant-based agriculture. [14]

The potential of BVA goes beyond the benefits of reduced disease transmission. It is representative of a food revolution that is necessary to address climate breakdown, food insecurity, biodiversity protection, reduction in water usage, and the promotion of good health.

Certified stock-free organic farming is another similar system of cultivation that excludes all artificial chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, etc.) and any products of animal origin. Some farms in Canada are practicing such farming. [15]

The APPC also recognizes that access to a primarily vegan food diet is dependent on geographical, cultural, and other socio-economic factors. Similarly, people from socially and economically marginalized communities are more affected by health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This is why it is necessary for us to ensure there is an equitable and sensitive approach to addressing these public health issues.

- Recognition by Health Canada of animal agriculture and the consumption of meat and dairy as a “health emergency.”
  - This should include specific public education on the connection between zoonotic diseases and animal agriculture.
  - An urgent campaign by Health Canada to promote the Canada Food Guide and the health benefits of a plant-based diet.
- An urgent establishment of a “New Food Deal” by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada with animal producers across Canada to transition away from animal agriculture to plant-based agriculture to reduce the risk of the current health and economic crises we face. This policy is in solidarity with the call for a “Food Revolution” by world animal rights political parties.
  - The “New Food Deal” would be an exchange of subsidies generally given to prop-up the animal-based agriculture sector during the economic downturn to instead be used for transitioning away from animal ag.
  - Transitioning would include phase-outs, buy-outs and step-down timelines and assistance for farms transitioning from animal focused agriculture to alternative approaches.
  - Money would be spent on infrastructure transition, education, retraining and research into development of plant-based sectors.
  - Ensure fair and equitable income supplementation to farmers and farm staff during the transition by developing a roadmap for change.

- Establishment of federal subsidy programs that will support local, plant-based, food sovereignty initiatives.
  - Create a mandate to phase out the animal agriculture sector by 2040, with a middle-term goal of a 70% reduction in animal beings raised and killed, including wildlife, by 2030.
  - A commitment by all levels of government to making whole, plant-based foods more affordable and accessible to consumers.
- It must be recognized that the source of the pandemic, and of zoonotic diseases in general, is the systemic consumption, exploitation, and mistreatment of animals and their habitat. Without this recognition, we run the risk of merely taking reactive measures to address the symptoms of the pandemic and not its source. We therefore call on the government of Canada to take immediate action to identify, understand, and address the plight of animals in our country.
  - The establishment by the Prime Minister of Canada, of a Minister for the Animals in cabinet to hold an inquiry into the plight of animals in Canada, their treatment in the agriculture sector, and dedicated to improving their status and treatment in Canadian society.