



May 7, 2019

Kevin Krakar  
President  
Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kevin,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February:

**WHEREAS**, animal abuse and inhumane handling are serious issues and need to be treated as such, and  
**WHEREAS**, OSPCA has been found unconstitutional in court, and  
**WHEREAS**, OSPCA also stated they want out of large animal inspection, and  
**WHEREAS**, others are beginning to step forward asking to take over the role,  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** take a leadership role in guiding the government to establish a well-trained government run animal welfare inspection team to be put in place to properly handle instances of animal abuse.

I would like to thank Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. As you are likely aware, the OSPCA is no longer conducting animal welfare investigations on livestock or equine farms. BFO was informed in March by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services and Community Safety (MCSCS) that all calls would be directed to local police beginning April 1, until a new animal care enforcement model could be developed. In the interim, OMAFRA has committed to assisting local police by connecting them with veterinarians and sector specific advisors, like BFO Animal Care Advisors (ACAs), as circumstances warrant.

In early January, an Ontario Superior Court Judge ruled that it is unconstitutional for the Province of Ontario to enact legislation that permits a private charity (the OSPCA) to have policing powers without government oversight. Although the government is appealing this ruling, the OSPCA has decided to abdicate its role in enforcement.

Throughout the winter, BFO has been meeting regularly with a coalition of livestock commodity organizations to discuss both short- and long-term solutions to the situation. A small delegation that included BFO staff also met with political staff from OMAFRA and MCSCS in February to discuss our



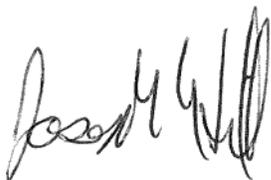
concerns. Regular communication between the coalition representing livestock agriculture, and the two ministries responsible for livestock and animal care enforcement continues.

BFO will remain actively involved in the discussions around the development of a new animal care enforcement model and new animal care act moving forward. In our estimate, this could take six months to a year to develop and implement. Government consultations are expected to be held later this spring.

Finally, in response to your resolution's specific mention of inspector training I can confirm that all of the livestock organizations involved in these discussions share your concerns. BFO will be placing a strong emphasis in our comments to government about the need to ensure all animal care enforcement agents appointed under any new model are well-equipped and sufficiently trained to properly evaluate the species they are charged with inspecting, including familiarity and knowledge of industry approved standards of care.

I hope this letter provides a sufficient response to your resolution. BFO will be sure to communicate to the membership any progress that is made in the development of a new animal care enforcement model for Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being more prominent than the last name "Hill".

Joe Hill  
President

cc: Dr. Paul Edwards (seconder)  
Robert Peacock (Advisory Councillor)  
BFO Board of Directors

