



**Liberal Party of Canada**

350 Alberl Street, Suite 920  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6M8

**Parti libéral du Canada**

350, rue Albert, bureau 920  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

**1. Which legislation, if any, has your party introduced or otherwise supported to improve legal protections for animals?**

The Liberal government was proud to support the passing of the Ending the Captivity of Whales and Dolphins Act, Bill S-203, and An Act to amend the Criminal Code (bestiality and animal fighting) Bill C-84. We are also supportive of new legislation to protect animals as detailed below.

**2. Please list and explain any party positions (paid or volunteer), or intra-party caucuses or committees charged with exploring animal welfare issues and policies in your party.**

The Liberal government introduced an Animal Welfare Caucus, created by MP Alexandra Mendès and supported by MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith to help the government develop policies to strengthen protections for animals and improve animal welfare. A re-elected Liberal government will continue to use this caucus to listen to and respond to animal welfare issues.

**3. Canada has no national animal protection legislation, and in this regard lags behind countries like the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and other western countries. World Animal Protection's Animal Protection Index—a global ranking created to score over 50—gives Canada a shameful grade of D on its animal protection laws and policies. A comprehensive federal Animal Protection Act is needed to provide meaningful legal protections to animals.**

A re-elected Liberal government will support new and stronger actions to prevent animal cruelty. We were proud to deliver on our previous commitment to protect animals from abuse. We also tabled and passed legislation (Bill C-84) which strengthened protections for animals to prevent animal cruelty.

To continue advancing animal protection, a re-elected Liberal government will support new legislation and is committed to a suite of actions including:

- Introducing legislation to end cosmetic testing on animals as soon as 2023 and phase out toxicity testing on animals by 2035.
- Working with partners to curb illegal wildlife trade and end elephant and rhinoceros ivory trade in Canada.
- Introducing legislation to protect animals in captivity.
- Banning the live export of horses for slaughter.
- Working with our partners to help women and children fleeing violence stay united with their companion animals.



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**4. In 2019, Canada slaughtered over 834 million land animals for food. Canada's farmed animal welfare laws and policies fail in the following ways:**

- **There is no federal legislation that sets welfare standards for animals on farms on a daily basis;**
- **Despite recent amendments, federal animal transport regulations are still among the worst in the western world, allowing animals to be transported for long periods of time in overcrowded trucks and exposed to extreme weather without water, food, or rest;**
- **Farmed animals are routinely improperly slaughtered, and may be skinned alive or scalded to death in hot water tanks. Birds including chickens, turkeys, and geese may be suspended for slaughter without first being rendered unconscious, causing additional fear and suffering.**

**Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would:**

**Improve farmed animal welfare? Regulate on-farm animal welfare conditions? Improve welfare conditions in farmed animal transport laws?**

The Liberal government has supported animal protection legislation and will continue working to better protect animals.

**5. A number of jurisdictions, including the European Union, have banned or limited animal testing for cosmetics and banned the import of animal-tested cosmetics. Senate Bill S-214 in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament, the Cruelty Free Cosmetics Act, would have prohibited cosmetic animal testing and the sale of cosmetics developed or manufactured using cosmetic animal testing. Further, it would have prohibited using evidence derived from animal testing to establish the safety of a cosmetic. Bill S-214 did not complete the legislative process before the end of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament and it was not reintroduced in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Parliament.**

**Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would ban animal testing for cosmetics, and the sale of cosmetics tested on animals?**

We recognize the importance of this issue and a re-elected Liberal government would introduce legislation to end cosmetic testing on animals as soon as 2023.

**6. Currently, there is no federal government oversight of any laboratory testing on animals. Without such oversight, animals are suffering unnecessarily, and Canadians are left in the dark, leaving the animal testing industry unaccountable for its practices, and non-transparent.**



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**Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would provide oversight of laboratory testing on animals in Canada, and move toward replacing animal testing with animal-free alternatives?**

We recognize the importance of this issue and a re-elected Liberal government would introduce legislation to phase out toxicity testing on animals by 2035.

**7. Canada has recently invested funds, via Protein Industries Canada, in growing Canada's plant-based food industry, including expanding innovation and infrastructure, and import and export support for that sector. As a global leader in plant-based protein ingredients such as lentils, peas, and beans, a vibrant value-added plant-based protein industry will be a boon to the Canadian economy, creating jobs and generating revenue while sparing animals from suffering in the food system, improving public health, and reducing Canada's impact on climate change and other environmental degradation.**

**Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would continue and expand support for the plant-based protein industry?**

The Liberal government has made substantial investments to support the plant-based food industry. We recognize the importance of this industry, and the potential Canada has to become a leader in plant-based food production. A re-elected Liberal government would continue to explore new opportunities to support this important industry.

**8. Industrial animal agriculture is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, representing 14.5% of human-caused emissions, according to the UN FAO. The contribution of animal farming to climate change can no longer be ignored.**

**Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would reduce or eliminate subsidies to industrial-scale animal agriculture?**

We recognize the critical role farmers play in supporting the Canadian economy and ensuring Canadians have access to the food they need to live healthy lives. We also recognize that to meet our net-zero targets, all sectors must reduce their emissions. This is why a re-elected Liberal government will continue working with agricultural producers to reduce emissions and meet our emissions targets.

**Does your party commit to amending the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act to bring greenhouse gas emissions from the animal agriculture industry under Canada's carbon pricing scheme?**

A re-elected Liberal government will continue working with the agricultural industry to reduce emissions



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from this sector working towards our ambitious emissions reductions targets.

**9. It is not currently illegal at the federal level to declaw cats and crop the ears and dock the tails of dogs for cosmetic purposes. These procedures cause enormous pain and distress, and are completely unnecessary. Some provinces, as well as veterinary regulatory associations, are restricting cosmetic mutilations, but there is still a need for national legislation.**

**Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would:**

**Ban declawing cats? Ban docking dogs' tails? Ban cropping dogs' ears?**

A re-elected Liberal government will continue to explore new ways to further protect animals and consider these proposals further.

**10. Fur farms cause ecological damage to nearby waterways, and hurt air quality, while causing millions of wild animals to suffer in cages, unable to engage in their natural behaviors. Without government subsidies, the industry would not stay afloat.**

Farming animals for fur also poses a major public health risk. Three Canadian mink fur farms have already experienced COVID-19 outbreaks, and experts warn that the disease could mutate in minks to evade vaccines.

**Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including phasing out fur farming in Canada?**

A re-elected Liberal government is committed to examining this issue further.

**11. The wildlife trade is cruel and exploitative, contributes to the spread of zoonotic diseases, and loss of biodiversity. The COVID-19 pandemic was likely caused by a disease jumping from animals to humans.**

**Does your party commit to curbing the trade of wild animals?**

We recognize the importance of this issue and a re-elected Liberal government will work with partners to curb illegal wildlife trade and end elephant and rhinoceros ivory trade in Canada. This work will build on our existing robust permitting system that regulates the import, export, or re-export of species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).