



Canadian Pork Council
Conseil canadien du porc

Letter to Minister Leona Aglukkaq regarding North-American Influenza

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2009

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Health
Government of Canada

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

I am writing on behalf of Canada's hog producers, asking that the Government of Canada begin referring to the flu virus that has become of international concern, as North-American influenza.

There are serious misunderstandings which the general public in countries around the world have acquired about the role of pork meat in the transfer of the virus, simply because it is being referred to as swine flu.

As the OIE, or the World Organization for Animal Health said today: It is not correct to call the current disease 'swine influenza'. The virus that is circulating includes genetic components of human, avian and swine origin. The OIE proposes to refer to this new virus as 'North American influenza', using the same approach to nomenclature as used with the Asian influenza and Spanish influenza outbreaks that have occurred in the past. (at http://www.oie.int/eng/press/en_090428.htm).

We would also greatly appreciate any assistance that you could provide in having provincial health authorities adopt this terminology.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Kind regards,

Jurgen Preugschas

President, Canadian Pork Council

The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) is a member-driven, not for profit national producer association committed to Canadian competitiveness in the global market. It is the collective voice of Canada's hog producers – an effective advocate on a broad range of public policy issues that has a direct impact on Canadian pork production. Through its network of provincial member associations, productive relationships with government departments and agencies, and key international contacts, the CPC responds quickly and effectively to capitalize on opportunities to enhance prosperity for its producers and the industry.

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