



## **CPC Statement on Bill C-246 – *Modernizing Animal Protection Act***

**October 4, 2016 (Ottawa, ON)** – On behalf of pork producers and their families across the country, the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) is urging Canada’s elected officials to oppose Bill C-246.

While we do not oppose portions of the bill prohibiting the importation of shark fins and dog and cat fur, and those targeting animal fighting and puppy mills, we have serious concerns about the bill’s implications for animal agriculture. Clearly, Bill C-246 is casting a wide net to capture many more circumstances and people compared to current legislation. In doing so, it greatly increases the risk of livestock producers and companies facing criminal liability for producing, wholesome affordable food.

The implications of this bill are far reaching and alarming. If passed, amendments to Bill C-246 will be used to test legal applications in costly court cases, which is what animal rights activist have promised to do when similar bills were unsuccessfully put forward.

Canadian pork producers take their responsibility for animal care very seriously. This primary responsibility is buttressed by both provincial and federal legislation, as well as the recently updated Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs. The codes are national guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals and have been written for virtually all farmed animal species. They are the result of a rigorous development process taking into account the best science available and the practical requirements for each species necessary to ensure uptake by stakeholders across Canada.

The current approach to animal care in the pork industry, which combines legislation, the code and an unwavering commitment by producers, has served Canadians well for some time now, and continues to do so. Adoption of a bill that threatens to turn hardworking producers and their families into common criminals serves no one.

The CPC serves as the national voice for hog producers in Canada. It is a federation of nine provincial pork industry associations representing approximately 12,000 hog farms, producing 25.5 million animals a year and generating over \$13 billion in economic activity. The 31,000 farm jobs they create contribute to the total direct, indirect and induced \$23.8 billion and 103,000 jobs across the country. The organization's purpose is to play a leadership role in achieving and maintaining a dynamic and prosperous Canadian pork sector.

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