

7 October 2019

Dear Camille,

Thank you for writing, for providing us with the opportunity to speak to your association and share the Green Party of Canada's platform, and for your advocacy. Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Kat Lorimer
Policy Researcher
Green Party of Canada

General Questions

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

Elizabeth May, the leader of the Green Party, was the House sponsor of Bill S-203 and campaigned and collaborated extensively to get it passed. She was also a joint-seconder on the various bills to tackle the practice of shark finning (S-238 was the latest) and introduced her own bill on the subject (C-417). She put forward amendments to strengthen Bill C-84, during the committee stage of consideration. She called publicly for the Senate to stop holding up Animal Rights legislation. She joined other advocates in publicly calling for improved federal transport regulations for animals.

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.

We have often had a member of our shadow cabinet as the Animal Rights critic, and hope to fill this position again with someone knowledgeable in the field.

Animal Protection Act

3. Canada has no since piece of legislation that sets out protections for animal welfare, and in this regard lags behind countries like the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and other western countries that do have national animal protection legislation. A comprehensive Animal Protection Act is needed, that recognizes animals as sentient beings who are more than mere property, and whose welfare should be protected in meaningful ways.

Does your party commit to implementing an Animal Protection Act if elected? Yes.

Please elaborate:

Green MPs would update Canada's criminal code as it pertains to animal protection, moving crimes against animals from the property section, and recognizing animals as sentient beings.

All-Party Committee on Animal Protection

4. Canada currently does not have an interparty committee on animal protection. Such a committee would enable non-partisan discussion around animal issues that Canadians care about, and lead to meaningful policy advancements to protect animals.

Does your party commit to helping form and participating in an all-party committee on animal protection?

Yes.

Please elaborate:

The Green Party will encourage its members to work to establish a Parliamentary Committee on Animal Welfare tasked with examining legislation affecting animal concerns and dealing with the animal welfare community. We agree that such a committee would prove a productive space for animal welfare issues to be properly researched and debated, and recommendations made as required.

Farmed Animals

5. In 2018, Canada slaughtered over 819 land animals for food. 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.

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 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? Yes.

Please elaborate:

Transnational corporations now control most of our food supply and agriculture has become a major cause of land degradation and pollution. Factory farms crowd chickens, turkeys, cows and pigs into inhumane and unhygienic conditions, causing extreme water and air pollution while creating the risk of food contamination and serious health threats.

The Green Party would work to adopt animal welfare legislation to prevent inhumane treatment of farm animals including in intensive factory farming operations. This will set minimum standards of treatment and have a timetable for phasing out intensive factory farming and other inhumane animal husbandry practices. It will set standards for distances live animals can be transported, and conditions for animals in slaughterhouses and auctions.

Regulate on-farm animal welfare conditions? Yes.

Please elaborate:

See previous answer.

Improve welfare conditions in farmed animal transport laws? Yes.

Please elaborate:



See previous answer.

Animal Testing

6. 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, 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 last Parliamentary session.

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? Yes.

Please elaborate:

Greens supported Bill S-214 and were disappointed that it was not able to make it through parliament before the end of the session. The Green Party will continue to encourage its members to bring forward or otherwise support legislation that bans the use of animals in cosmetics testing.

7. 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.

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? Yes.

Please elaborate:

Greens support legislation that strives for the reduction and ultimate replacement of animal use for research, testing, and educational purposes and makes the use of animals for research, testing and educational purposes unlawful where a non-animal method is reasonably or practically available. Greens will also look to enhance the current system of oversight consisting of voluntary guidelines and peer review administered by the Canadian Council on Animal Care to provide better standards and oversight for animals currently in lab use.

Investment in the Plant-Based Food Industry

8. The Canadian government recently earmarked \$153 million and launched Protein Industries Canada to invest in growing Canada's plant-based food industry, including expanding innovation and infrastructure, and import and export supports 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? Yes.

Please elaborate:

The Green Party supports the Protein Industries Canada program and believes it fits well with our climate plan.

Cosmetic Mutilations of Companion Animals

9. It is currently legal 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 beginning to restrict 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? Yes.

Ban docking dogs' tails? Yes.

Ban cropping dogs' ears? Yes.

Dog and Cat Fur Imports

10. It is currently legal to import dog and cat fur into Canada, unlike in the European Union and United States, where it is banned. Private Member's Bill C-246, the Modernizing Animal Protections Act, would have banned dog and cat fur, among improving other animal welfare laws, but it was defeated in 2016. Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would ban dog and cat fur imports? Yes.



Please elaborate:

Elizabeth May spoke out in favour of this bill when it was put forward in 2016. We would support similar policies going forward.

Subsidies to Seal Hunt / Buyout for Commercial Sealers

11. Every year, the East Coast commercial sealing industry kills tens of thousands of seals that are three months of age or younger. The animals often suffer terribly when they do not die from the first bullets that hit them (as the bullets are often fired from boats in choppy waters), and are often still alive when gaffed, dragged on board boats, and skinned. This practice is cruel and hurting Canada's international reputation, and 27 countries have banned imports of commercial seal products.

Canadian tax dollars would be better spent transitioning sealers into other sources of income, including eco-tourism, rather than propping up this dying industry.

Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would end the commercial seal hunt through a sealing license buyout and an economic transition program? Yes.

Please elaborate:

The Green Party does not support the current industrial, commercial seal hunt in Canada. We support hunting by Aboriginal peoples and local communities. Green Party MPs will:

- End federal assistance to the commercial seal hunt and support an end to the seal hunt;
- Work with fishermen, fisheries unions, and local communities to develop a fair federal buyout of sealing licenses;
- Work with local communities affected to implement training programs and other resources needed to enhance a sealing industry buyout;
- Work with other levels of government to find sustainable economic alternatives for sealers and their communities, and provide full compensation to sealers for lost income.

Subsidies to Fur Industry

12. 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.

policy agenda that would end subsidies for fur farms, and instead invest in new, sustainable economic opportunities for fur farmers? Yes.

Please elaborate:

The Green Party will review the current federal support for this sector and look at the feasibility of reallocating these funds to transition fur farmers to new, sustainable economic opportunities.

