



## Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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## La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

December 11, 2013

The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7, Floor 9, Room 149  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0C5

Dear Minister Ritz:

RE: Animal Pedigree Act

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association to express serious concern regarding the possibility that the Animal Pedigree Act may be repealed.

The CSBA is an organization of breeders of purebred sheep across Canada, representing over 40 breeds of sheep. As a democratic organization, operated by provincial directors elected by the membership, the CSBA is dedicated to working for the interests of sheep breeders across the country, whatever breed they may represent. The CSBA was incorporated 1905 and, like many other breed associations, relies heavily on the Animal Pedigree Act to ensure the integrity of Canadian genetics. The Animal Pedigree Act is good legislation that provides the framework for pedigreed animal associations to exist.

Repealing the act would adversely affect the international recognition of Canadian pedigrees for all species and would dissolve Canada's reputation for breed integrity. Several expected additional negative impacts resulting from the loss of the Animal Pedigree Act are: 1) loss of small and rare breeds, 2) loss of international markets, 3) fragmentation of existing breed associations, 4) dilution of genetics, and 5) loss of guidance in managing breed genetics. International livestock organizations and individual producers often seek out Canadian associations to assist with managing purebred genetics within their own country, where they currently lack an Animal Pedigree Act.

The CSBA is also concerned about the lack of consultative process and transparency surrounding the possibility of repealing the Animal Pedigree Act. The entire Canadian livestock industry would be impacted by the loss of the Act; however, most

organizations are unaware of the current situation. No one has been able to provide concrete ideas, direction, possible outcomes or formal comment.

Repealing the Animal Pedigree Act would cause turmoil, uncertainty and disruption to the sheep industry and the entire livestock sector. On behalf of all Canadian sheep producers, I ask that the Animal Pedigree Act be left in place to continue to provide the groundwork for the registration of purebred animals.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 1-819-826-3066 or [trenholm.pauline@gmail.com](mailto:trenholm.pauline@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pauline Trenholm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Trenholm Nelson  
CSBA President