

## MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

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# NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

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## Manitoba Beef Producers supports Canadian Cattlemen's Association's concern over new transport regulations

**WINNIPEG** – Proper cattle care and welfare are paramount in the Canadian beef industry. The cattle industry's objective is for animals under transport to arrive successfully at destination in good health and condition, without injury and while minimizing stress.

Both the Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) are extremely concerned and disappointed that the revisions published today to the Health of Animals – Transport Regulations have disregarded recommendations made by cattle producers and, if followed, are likely to increase the incidence of injury and increase stress to cattle. Cattle producers are unlikely to find such outcomes unacceptable and are reasonably predicted to discontinue some routine long-haul inter-provincial shipments.

“This will have a tremendously negative impact to the beef industry in Manitoba as our sector relies on the ability to inter-provincially ship livestock,” said MBP President Tom Teichroeb. “If there are no inter-provincial buyers for our cattle, there will be little to no economic incentive to expand our industry and operations. That will negatively impact families, communities and the province as a whole.”

CCA submitted extensive comments, questions and recommendations during the CFIA's review process. We are disappointed that for the most part, the expertise of cattle producers in handling and minimizing stress on their animals has been ignored in the final rule.

When it comes to understanding the effects transportation has on cattle, the Canadian beef industry has collaborated with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, academia, animal welfare experts, veterinarians, truckers, and animal care advocacy groups. Cattle producers have made substantial investments into research to benchmark how the industry was performing and to seek ways to minimize the stress on the animal.

In light of these efforts, we remain puzzled why the Government has disregarded its own body of research and evidence on beef cattle transport in making the revisions. This includes findings by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that 99.95 per cent of cattle on long-haul journeys reach their destination in good condition.

We agree with the objective of continually looking at ways to improve these outcomes. We believe specific proposals need to be researched to understand how they affect the wellbeing of the animal. Without fully evaluating unknowns such as the stress of unloading and reloading versus the stress of completing the journey, the effects of temperature, trailer design, loading densities as well as

whether rest stops do, in fact, relieve stress, the Government is taking a blindfolded shot in the dark approach with the revised regulations.

Our position is any regulatory change needs to be based on scientific evidence and wherever possible, use outcome-based guidelines that focus on the animal. The CCA believes that for a new rule to be meaningful, the supporting research needs to be conducted using commercial cattle, transport trailers, and drivers under typical commercial distances and conditions in Canada.

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*Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba. Our role and mission is to represent our beef producers through communication, research, advocacy and education. Manitoba Beef Producers represents 8,000 beef producers across the province.*

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