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January 29, 2025

The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Mr. Paul MacKinnon  
President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
59 Camelot Drive, Suite 250  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y9

Dear Minister MacAulay and CFIA President MacKinnon,

**Re: Urgent Request for a 30-Day Review of CFIA's Cull Order for BC Ostriches**

[I am/we are] writing to express my strong support for a 30-day review of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) order to cull the ostriches at Universal Ostrich Farms in Edgewood, BC. This extension is essential to facilitate an independent assessment of the decision to cull the Ostrich herd and to consider information that does not seem to have been considered.

It is particularly troubling that on January 2, 2025 CFIA issue an exemption and research value of this herd. This acknowledgment classified the ostriches as a "distinct genetic unit," underscoring their importance to Canada's scientific and agricultural communities. However, just eight days later, this recognition was rescinded, and a culling order was issued instead. The abrupt reversal raises serious questions about the decision-making process and whether all relevant factors were given due consideration.

These ostriches represent an irreplaceable genetic resource, cultivated over decades, and are critical for advancing research in immunity, disease resistance, and sustainable livestock practices. Their survival is of national and global importance, and any alternative plan must prioritize the preservation of this unique herd.

In addition, there are serious concerns about the CFIA's reliance on insufficient and questionable testing methods to justify the cull. The decision appears to be based on throat and rectal swabs from only two deceased birds, with no efforts made to test live birds, environmental factors, or confirmatory tissue samples. The remaining flock is now entirely healthy and symptom-free, and the lack of further deaths strongly suggests the absence of an ongoing threat. The culling order appears both premature and unwarranted in light of these facts.

[I/we] respectfully urge you to grant the requested 30-day review to ensure that proper, independent testing can be conducted, humane alternatives are fully explored, and the credibility of the CFIA's policies is upheld. This critical time will allow for science and compassion to guide the process, rather than the irreversible destruction of a valuable genetic and research asset.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

*Your Signature*

[Your Full Name]  
[Your Affiliation, if applicable]