

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, Province, Postal Code]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]

January 28, 2025

[MP's Name]
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear **[MP's Name]**,

Re: Urgent Support Needed to Halt Ostrich Cull and Advocate for a 30-Day Review

I am writing to you as your constituent to urgently request your leadership in advocating for a **30-day review** of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) planned cull of 400 ostriches in Edgewood, BC, scheduled for **February 1, 2025**. This is a time-sensitive matter that requires immediate action. I ask that you call and write both the Federal Minister of Agriculture and the President of CFIA and enlist **Pierre Poilievre's support** to extend this timeline and promote a responsible resolution.

The following points illustrate the urgency and importance of this issue:

- 1. CFIA's Reversal of Exemption and the Genetic Importance of the Flock:** On **January 2, 2025**, the CFIA granted an exemption to the farm, citing the genetic uniqueness of the ostrich flock. However, just **eight days later**, the exemption was abruptly revoked, and a culling order was issued. This reversal raises serious concerns about transparency, especially given the flock's demonstrated resilience to H5N1 avian flu (if it indeed was the flu and not another virus). The natural **herd immunity** exhibited by these ostriches represents a valuable opportunity for scientific research into immunity and disease resistance. Destroying this flock would irreparably eliminate a critical resource for understanding these issues.
- 2. Request for a 30-Day Review and Unified Action:** Request a **30-day review** to allow independent experts to assess the flock's genetic and scientific value and explore humane alternatives to culling.
 - I ask you to **write and call the Minister of Agriculture** to advocate for this review and immediate suspension of the cull.
 - Contact the **President of CFIA** to demand accountability for the exemption reversal and emphasize the importance of a proper review.
 - **Contact other Conservative MPs** and encourage them to act on this matter immediately, as time is running out. We only have until **Saturday, February 1, 2025**.
- 3. Emotional Distress to Ostriches, Owners, and the Public:** This situation is not only an ethical and scientific crisis but also an emotional one. Ostriches are social animals, and the stress caused to the herd during a mass cull would be profound. The farm owners, who have dedicated themselves to the care of this flock, and the public who may witness such a large-scale cull would experience significant emotional

distress. Proceeding with this cull without exploring every alternative would be deeply disconcerting and inhumane.

4. **Concerns Regarding Humane Treatment:** Reports suggest that shooting the ostriches is being considered as a method of culling. Such a practice, applied to 400 birds, cannot reasonably be considered humane. This raises concerns under the **BC Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act** and highlights the importance of alternative and humane solutions.

[MP's Name], your leadership and advocacy are essential in ensuring this unique and valuable flock is not destroyed without a transparent review. I will follow up with your office to discuss this matter further and how we can work together to protect these animals and advocate for responsible, science-based decision-making.

Your voice in **calling and writing the Minister of Agriculture and CFIA President**, reaching out to other Conservative MPs, and securing **Pierre Poilievre's support for this 30-day extension**, is critical to preventing unnecessary destruction and ensuring further research is conducted.

Sincerely,

Your Signature

[Your Full Name]

[Your Affiliation, if applicable]

CC:

- Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
- Ian Paton, Provincial MLA
- Steve Morissette, Provincial MLA
- Mark Holland, Minister of Health
- Mary-Jane Ireland, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Cortnie Fotheringham, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Media Contacts