

From: Cheryl [cheryl-@mts.net]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2007 2:55 PM

To: Johnson, Cathy (CON); Sargeant, Terry (CON)

Cc: admin@nrtee-trnee.ca; Andrew Basham; Carillon newspaper; CHRIS HENDERSON; Family Services, Minister (LEG); Colleen Simard; Corporate Knights; Donna Huffam; Free Press; Friends of the earth; Gerald Flood; Gerrard, Jon (Liberal Caucus) (LEG); Finance, Minister (LEG); gwhelan@web.ca; have your say; Hugh Mcfadyen; John Bennett Climate Action Network; kristin.may@ec.gc.ca; Kyle Lamothe; La Liberte; Laura Rance; letters wpgsun; Margaux Watt; Marilyn Maki; Agriculture, Minister (LEG); umolso35@cc.umanitoba.ca; Vic Toews, MP; Manitoba Factory Farms; Sam Katz; Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister (LEG); Water Stewardship, Minister (LEG); minwst@leg.gov.mb.ca; Conservation, Minister (LEG); Premier (LEG); STEPHEN HARPER

Subject: Clean Environment Commission- Hog Industry Review May 2007 Questions Unanswered

Importance: High

Dear Clean Environment Commission, Leaders and fellow citizens,

Please include this report into the minutes of the CEC Hog Industry review May 2007. There are many points listed below that are of grave concern for the sustainability of Manitoba`s healthy future that have not been discussed in detail in the meetings held over the province in the last six months. They need to be addressed by the CEC, their experts and all parties concerned. Time does not make them go away, it only is making the accumulative effects snow ball.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have gathered the strength and clear vision needed to make the commitment to our children to clean up Manitoba and our agriculture practices. This is our collective responsibility and accountability to a sustainable Manitoba! All for One and One for All, we can do this! Thank You, Cheryl

Hi, my name is Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles and I live on 10 acres on the Red River by St. Adolphe in the R.M. of Ritchot. I am the daughter of generations of the family farm mixed operations and the daughter- in-law to a large corporate grain and one of the first Intensified Livestock Operators here in Manitoba. In a ten mile radius from our home in St. Adolphe we have at least 50 factory farms around us, mainly Hog. One mile south on the banks of the flooding Red River is the U of M Glenlea Research Station who hosts an internationally, federally, provincially funded 10,000 hog operation. Most times of the year we can not open our windows to receive fresh clean air nor play outside without gagging on the amonia stench that comes to our house from all four wind directions as these barn are lined up 4 to 6 of them in the middle of quarter sections, every quarter section. The R.M. of Richot is 15 to 30 minutes south from the city of Winnipeg in the Red River flood plain valley. This has got to change....and we wonder why we

have water problems. Just come for a drive and you shall see why....bring your gas masks. They really like to spread the liquid manure when the sun goes down, right when you want to open your windows for a good night sleep. I shake my head in dismay and shame when they spread on Christmas eve and Christmas day, long weekends, etc when they know families are gathering and being social and going to church etc. It is all about respect...social harmony.....our family farmer would never ever do this to the communities...but operators do...corporations do....we need some strict regulations and enforcement happening here in this Province. Our children are getting educated in the cities and are wanting to come back out to live in the country for the fresh air, land and water.....and it is gone....imagine.....gone in the millennium.....the new century was never about outerspace....it was-is about our innerspace....what we look like from outerspace...ie Lake Winnipeg and about the essential sacred air and water....we need these two core elements staying environmentally healthy and sustainable....I thank the Department of Conservation for turning this Red Flag Truths over to the Clean Environment Commission for a broad full scoping review and a binding look at what direction we are leading our environmental sustainable future into. Enough is enough and we have to do better for our children. We need healthy water and air to even survive never mind to make a profit!

Clean Environment Commission Hog Production Industry Scoping Meetings, January 2007

Dear Chairperson, Panelists, Ladies and Gentleman,

I am here today on behalf of those who do not have a voice or for those that are afraid to use theirs. I speak to you on behalf of the water energy, Mother Nature, the Animal Kingdom, Spirit Energy and for our future generations of Manitobans.

The very fact that we are holding Clean Environment Commission meetings all over this province in hope of finding solutions to help us re-balance our Hog Production Industry is both exciting because things are changing and yet very very sad because things are so out of control at the same time.

We ask our selves these questions!

Why did things need to escalate to these red flag drastic measures?

What signs have we been turning our cheeks on?

What state of conditions are our hogs in?

What state of condition is our sacred water in?

Why have we ignored the growing state of stress and uneasiness in our rural and urban communities regarding the drastic increase in hog production, its excess waste and odour and its negative ripple effects onto society?

What does all this mean for our healthy environmental sustainability?

What does all this mega -sizing mean for our small entrepreneur and farmer?

What does all this waste mean for our wildlife and fish stocks?

What do these toxic gases do to our quality of air, for our birds and butterflies and babies?

What does all this cloning, drugging, artificially inseminating, tweaking, mega-sizing, growth hormones, crating, proding, transporting do to our overall health and safety for the Hogs and for the People in our environment?

Is this the kind of meat, what we really wish to pass onto our grandchildren?

Is this waste coming off these hogs the kind that is environmentally sustainable for our land, air and water and people?

Are we not just building huge houses of cards with these mega Bubble Hog operations where the inside environment does not reflect the outside environment at all? Like the scientific Biosphere Experiment...that failed...it will not last.

Have we not allowed economic gains and increases in production rates overshadow common sense and the overall sustainable health of a meat source for society?

We have killed the pigs` natural immune system. We have allowed mass production to reduce the Hog to a chiller thriller experiment where the poor beast has its dignity and respect stripped from it. Starting at its very inception to its fast-tracked drugged and forced fed life that has increased its size beyond common sense while at the same time reducing its waste. This seems to be reflecting our increase in obesity and colon cancers in our youth and society as well.

The Bubble experiment failed in the world of science and I dare to say that these mega barns of bubble-biosphere hog production are failing here as well. We do not have to go far into Canada or Europe to find this Truth.

Environmental sustainability is all about equality and respect for every part of the whole or else it will break down. Well, we are broken down here in Manitoba, our water can no longer take the waste that we are exposing it too. The bubble animal production systems of removing the natural from the animals are systems that have also broken down and are doomed to fail the people and our healthy sustainable future.

The animals need to be returned to their natural ways, in their natural environments or this accumulation of disease and dis-ease shall spread much further than the signs of distress that we are currently experiencing here in Manitoba, Quebec and Ontario.

What further scoping factors do we need to look at now to get our Hog Production Industry back in line with environmental sustainability?

1). Use science and other factors to tell the difference between which meat is the safest and most environmental sustainable for our collective future. The meat coming out of enclosed bubble hog barns or the meat coming from the organic free-range pigs. Which way should we be moving forward into the future and which production system should get phased out like old toxic technology?

2). Test and monitor the surface, ground and aquifer water surrounding those areas of intensified livestock-hog operators and record the findings to be analysed by science and used as baramoters of health and sustainability and fine the operators accordingly if the water is contaminated, if not closing down their operations all together.

3). Set up and enforce strict laws and regulations to prohibit global, national, corporate, mutual fund and other investments into livestock-hog production that is harmful to the environmental sustainability of Manitoba and specifically to the water.

4). Phase- Buy out all intensified hog- livestock operations out of the flood areas of the province and out of protected ecological areas, protect the water, wildlife and fauna habitat. No waste spreading of any type in the flooded or protected areas.

5). Eliminate winter manure spreading starting in 2008.

6). Regulate and utilize the straw method of raising the animals again, phasing out all other methods as they are not natural or sustainable for the longterm health of the hog or the workers.

7). Eliminate the release of liquid manure into pipes that are put underground and let go of at any time of the year. These hot toxic wastes are carrying far too much deadly active bacteria and drugs to be let go of directly into the ground and especially near water sources like we are seeing with the Assinboine River. They also cause fog patches that are deathly to the wildlife and to society. ie. Number One highway between Winnipeg and Portage La Prairie

8). Study the long-term safety and quality of life that the people who work in the the food-processing plants are enduring and make the necessary changes to alleviate these physical and mental burdens that mega-sizing the industries has put on them. For environmental sustainability we need to make the necessary changes to bring back respect, dignity and honor to the workers and to the animals. If you have no one able to work or wanting to work in these death factories than you have no need for the meat and no need for the livestock-hog and nothing to review because there is nothing in the environment and sustainability scoped itself out.

9). 13.5 years to receive essential basic information regarding the livestock - hog industry and the physical environment is not accepted by the People, First Nations, Animals, Spirit Energy nor by future generations. This is a top priority and mandated already by the Environment Act and the Sustainability Development Act. Thirteen and half years is not an acceptable time frame for any stakeholder, the Department of Conservation is expected to comply much sooner or the hog ban stays on for that long too.

10). Of course animal welfare shall be included in the scope for as we the people read it and understand it the minister and leaders want to know if the Hogs are environmentally sustainable. How else will we know if we do not look at the animal welfare. Impliment surprise spot checks with Winnipeg Humane Society, Animal Watch, Pork Council and CEC all together to verify the varying stages of the animals life in their different environments and how they are doing. Are the conditions acceptable, sustainable, reasonable, respectful, dignified and humane. Would it pass the test of approval from our elderly, a kindergarden class, our teenagers, our First Nations people, our Health Inspectors or our Zoo Keepers

11). Ban, the gestation stall and all other stalls. The statement to the CEC that this tight 24/7 hr lock up is good and safe for the sow is absurd. When I was pregnant with our two girls I was as big as a sow and for my own safety and the safety of my vagina, thank God, my husband did not confine me to a metal crate with slates for my waste in case I got into a fight with other pregnant females. This barbariac locking up of a very intelligent, clean, nesting and nuturing, two

DNA strands away from being a Human-being, days are over!!! If the farmer can not afford to offer the pigs more space in their natural instinctual habit with straw to route in and collect their waste, then that farmer can not meet the environmental sustainability standards for our childrens` s future.

12). The Clean Environment Commission would benefit from setting up a 1 - 800 , 24/7 telephone line/answering machine where the public could phone in and tell their details of the environmental truths that they know but are too afraid and intimidated to show up to public meetings or hearings too. It is very very hard to talk about your family or your boss or your neighbour or.... This number should be well advertised and on your website permanently as commissioners of a clean environment. Perhaps you could run an email talkback address too.

13). Protect the WATER from being over-used and under-paid as well as polluted from the Intensified Livestock - Hog Industry. Water Quality Monitoring needed and effective enforcement of the Environment Act and the Water Protection Act and water tables and aquifers monitored.

14). Environmental sustainability will only be possible when mega -sizing operators incorporate our original heritage farming techniques such as utalizing straw, family poding and free-ranging in a pigs natural environment including trees to provide the pigs shade and shelter. In our sustainable future this is the only type of animal production systems that shall be allowed. All other systems shall fail and we shall be left to collectively clean up these short-sighted diseased water polluting facilities. Just look to the other jurisdictions to see that I am telling the Truth.

15). Plant tree lines around all livestock operations to help filter the air and the toxins and to provide shelter.

16). Greenhouse Gases - what contribuition comes from the Hog Industry, what are they doing to reduce it?

17). Transportation - what is the accident rate of transporting all these hogs to the market. (MPI) - Humane treatment to the Hogs

18). Liability - will and how will the Hog industry, Pork Council etc be held accountable financially and ethically to the negative effects that can come out of hearings like these under our current laws and regulations or their actions in the future.

19). Does the CEC or the Department of Conservation of the Manitoba Provincial Government have legal power for accountability and liability over corporate, mutual fund, individual shares and foreign investment into the livestock-hog industry and factory farms when the Provincial and Canadian enviromental

sustainability is threatened, under stress, abused or the negative cumulative effects are upon society. ie. water quality, environmental health effects etc.

20). Does the factory farm or ILO`s have liability insurance or indemnity bonds before liscensing them?

21). For the CEC to look at restricting, limiting the number and types of hog operators that may cause adverse cumulative effects, especially in certain parts of the province. ie. in the flood areas and in the protected areas etc.

22). If a hog operation is found guilty of an environmental infraction. ie. contaminated wells or creeks or...what actions are they resposible for to put into place to restore the environment back into a sustainable future?

23). The Planning and Development Act or the old Bill 33 is inadequate for the current rate of Hogs in Manitoba and the approval process in relation to environmental sustainability. Must be a part of the scoping exercise.

24) Take a good close look at the definition of pollutant in the Environment Act as the waste, odor and quality of the meat often falls under this jurisdiction.

25). Under the Environment Act - environment means a). air, land and water, or b). plant and animal life, including humans. As stated in the Act the intent of the Act is to develop and maintain an environmental management system in Manitoba which will ensure that the environment is maintained in such a manner as to sustain a high quality of life, including social and economic development, recreation and leisure for this and future generations....

26). Under the Sustainable Development Act - Sustainability means the capacity of a thing, action, activity or process to be maintained indefinitely in a manner consistent with the spirit of the Principles and Guidelines. Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable yield means the harvesting, extraction or use of a renewable resource at a rate or in an amount that does not exceed the growth, regeneration or replacement of the resource. All issues of concerned citizens falls under the scope.

27). Modern day medicine uses the pigs heart to do heart surgery for humans. This very fact alone should be our Wake Up call to have the respect and decency to mandate, regulate and enforce more natural space, fresh air, sun, rain, snow and wind on their backs, freedom to come and go, straw and other raw materials for these family-orientated life giving creatures of God. My grandparents would be devastated and disgusted at how these factory farms treat their animals today. These ILO`s are not our Heritage nor our sustainable future.

28). The piglets and all pigs absolutely have to be mandated to have more space, straw and their natural outdoor-indoor come and go environment returned to them. And in a short time society will see their immune systems will toughen up again and the operators shall be able to phase out the cowardly dependency on the costly drugs and administration of these fear based products. Whose idea was this in the first place the drug and or feed companies? Drugs should be rarely used, just in case of emergency, just like for yourself.

29). In looking closely at the environmental sustainability of the Hog Industry, society is very concerned about the increasing science on how much antibiotics there is in our water supplies and how our bodies and even our babies are becoming immune to the drugs. And how the diseases have super strength and are immune to the antibiotics. They are linking it to the food we eat as well. This is not sustainable.

30). The recent research from University of Manitoba student, Jennifer Magoon illustrating that pesticides, insecticides, herbicides and fungicides are having negative health affects on the rural residents including birth defects, respiratory and eye infections also brings up concerns over the ripple affects of the livestock-hog industry as it relates to our fellow Manitobans. Living in the country could cost you and your babies health now. This has got to stop!

To be also included in the scope as it affects Manitobans environmental sustainability and development are:

- *Animal Welfare
- *Handling and Transporting
- *Barn locations
- *Insurances and Fire Safety
- *Air Quality within the barns
- *Slaughtering and Food Processing Industry
- *Health and Safety for animals, people, land, air, water and plants
- *Labour relations and local recruitment difficulties
- *Property depreciation
- *Rural and community discord

- *Urban concerns
- *Animal-Hog and Human disease concerns and facts
- *Gestation crates and crates of any kind have to be banned
- *Overcrowding of the pigs
- *Economic sustainability and liability
- *Antibiotic resistance and residue in the waste, land, air, water and meat supplies
- * Greenhouse Gases and ILO accountability
- *Other jurisdictions knowledge and experiences-science: European Union, Sweden, Florida, Arizona, North Carolina, Quebec
- * University of Manitoba Gleanlea Research Station findings
- *University of Winnipeg and Brandon's research on the hogs and Lake Winnipeg and Water Quality
- *Water Protection Act and Water Quality Management Zones regulations
- *Health Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- *Past reports and research done in this province
- *Moral, ethical, spiritual obligations, responsibilities and laws
- *Paylean and other growth drugs and their long-term effects on the pigs and the people and the environment. Ban it - back to natural!
- *Check out www.meatrix.ca and www.meatrix.com for more info on the ILO industry
- *Industry priorities...ie. Olywest vs. Vita Health
- *90% of meat is exported at what costs to our sustainable environment, 100% of waste stays here!
- *More humane handling at time of death and type of death etc.
- *Nuisance odours and their physical affects to all life forms that can smell it.

- *Second shift at Maple Leaf??? CEC concerns
- *Lack of environmental enforcement and education
- *Urgent concern over blood release into the sewer systems and waterways
- *Bull rushes in ditches, blue green algae ditches, creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes overloaded
- *Boil Water Advisories
- *E-coli warnings
- *Draw down of water tables
- *Nuisance odours and Quality of Life
- *Nuisance Odours and Birth defects and pregnant women difficulties
- *Hog industry standards - Honeywagon operators vs. socially and environmentally conscious good operators
- *Ecological services and funding for farmers...ie putting back the wetlands and forrests and studying the water better and closer
- *CEC follow up in 3 years
- *First Nation`s Rights and involvement, input and notifications, CEC panelist
- *Manure management neglect and enforcement
- *Rural community development and harmony
- *Small farmer vs. factory farmer and sustainability
- *Organic hog producing teachings, research, role models, education, promotion
- *Concern about drought and water sustainability
- *Maple Leaf putting the small farmer out of business
- *Keep ban on till there is proper enforcement and regulations all over the Province
- *NAFTA concerns vs. environmental sustainability

*Human Rights and Animal Rights

*1% myth

*Stress related illnesses

*Real estate depreciation

*Hog stigma and reputation

*European farming methods being allowed to be here in Manitoba but yet banned in Europe and Immigration increasing by 10,000 per year in Manitoba

*Clean ground water to flush barns - \$ - sustainable in drought time, equal water payments

*Phosphorus and Nitrogen and 1% Illusion - environmental sustainability and truthfulness

*Hog Disposal and respect, disease control

*No difference in the people so why does Europe treat hog production and its people different

*Full cost accounting needed

*NGO involvement

*Check out all relevant research centres for up to the date findings on hog production

* Lack of Freedom to open your own house windows to receive fresh air, respiratory and eye problems, toxic stench

*Review Planning Act 2006, Bill 33, Bill 40 - not environmentally sustainable

*Technical Review Committees - discord

*What is the Upper Limit for Hog Capacity in the province of Manitoba???

*Climate Change responsibilities

*Heavy Metal build up - residue and cumulative effect on sustainability, Human illness etc.

*Animal Cruelty - rewrite Animal Care Act to better reflect humane values and sustainability

*Social Discord

*Hog barn notification to public announcements etc.

*Water quality tests ethics and accountability

*Measure the unknown ie. rural development or not, people moving away

*Watershed drainage

*Deadline for funding is before scoping report is released to the public. Would need a extension of time for this to accurately work.

*Ripple effects of contaminated wells, health of residents, negative effects onto other businesses, care homes etc. Who pays? Tea House

*Dust, dander, pollutants in the air, land and water from all the animals and their Greenhouse Gases

*Ineffective lagoon odor control, lagoon management and enforcement - strawing it in windy Manitoba is ineffective

*Foreign investment versus local control and environmental sustainability

*Full scope and full hearings required for long-term health and safety of our provincial waters, health and agriculture direction and sustainability (Hogs)

*Expert Panel input requiring full transparency and democracy

*Professional standards for all transactions required including follow-up responses

*1% Illusion versus Agriculture being responsible for 14% and Hog Industry responsible for 7.7% phosphorus

* Acid Rain coming back to us from this toxic waste being put on the land

I thank you for your time and consideration of all the above mentioned relevant points to this very touchy subject of the mass production of hogs in the province of Manitoba.

Concerned Manitoban citizen,

Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles

Box 480

St. Adolphe, Mb.

R5A 1A2

(204) 883-2269

Cheryl-@mts.net