



CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO

ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION

***Standing Committee on Health
Bill C-293 An Act Respecting Pandemic
Prevention and Preparedness 2023***



www.christianfarmers.org

info@christianfarmers.org

1-855-800-0306



@CFFOnt

REPRESENTING FARMERS SINCE 1954



**CHRISTIAN FARMERS
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO**
ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION

Brief to the Standing Committee on Health

RE: Bill C-293 An Act Respecting Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness

Recommendation

That section 4 (2) (I), as currently worded, be removed from Bill C-293.

Brief

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) recognizes the importance of preventing disease, particularly outbreaks that could lead to pandemic situations, and the need for preparedness to handle disease outbreaks when they do occur.

We are writing to state our concern about the wording of Bill C-293. In particular, the CFFO is concerned about the wording of section 4 (2) (I).

One Health Approach

Section 4 (2) (I) (i) gives responsibility for reducing risk of antimicrobial resistance solely to the Minister of Agriculture, when this should be shared by those responsible for risks and impacts of antimicrobial resistance within human and veterinary medicine, among others. This section should be removed from the Bill.

It is important in looking at disease risk and spread to consider human, animal and environmental disease factors through an interdisciplinary One Health approach. Canada already has a “Pan-Canadian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance,” developed using a One Health approach. It involves leadership across many levels of government and diverse stakeholders. Collaborative effort is needed to meaningfully address the risks and implement strategies across affected sectors.

Animal Agriculture

Section 4 (2) (I) (ii - iv) directly correlate animal agriculture with increased pandemic risk. These sections further direct the promotion of “alternative proteins,” based on a notion of reduced pandemic risk. This language unfairly represents the risks posed by animal agriculture. These sections of the Bill, as worded, further require drastic action including

REPRESENTING FARMERS SINCE 1954

231 Shearson Crescent, Unit 101, Box 2, Cambridge, ON, N1T 1J5
1-855-800-0306 or 519-837-1620 info@christianfarmers.org www.christianfarmers.org

measures to “regulate” animal agriculture and to “phase out...high risk species” in response to this exaggerated notion of risk. These sections should also be removed from the Bill.

Drastic actions, such as those suggested in the current wording of the Bill, in the case of food animals in particular, would result in loss of food supply, economic losses, and increased cost of food, among other effects.

Agriculture is already highly regulated and constantly improving based on the latest scientific information and market-driven changes. Any pandemic risk needs to be weighed against our ability to address the risk through prevention and response. Any actions taken need to directly relate to specific identified risk.

The CFFO requests that section 4 (2) (I), as currently worded, be removed from Bill C-293.

Conclusion

The wording of Bill C-293, section 4 (2)(I), does not appropriately assign responsibility for antimicrobial resistance, unfairly represents the risk of animal agriculture, and makes drastic recommendations regarding animal agriculture based on this exaggerated notion of risk. We recommend removing this section, as currently worded, from the Bill.

Organization Description

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is recognized as an Accredited Farm Organization in Ontario, representing the interests of over 4,000 farm families who are called to the vocation of farming. CFFO policy promotes economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable farming, advocating that farmers receive fair return for their production and stewardship efforts.