



October 27, 2021

Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
c/o Maurizio Angotti - Inspection Manager, Northern Alberta-Saskatchewan  
8403 Coronet Street North West, Room 205  
Edmonton, AB T6E 4N7

Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan  
Box 7073  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4J1

***Via Email***

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Violation of Health of Animals Regulations and *The Animal Protection Act, 2018* at Thunder Creek Pork in Moose Jaw, SK**

I am writing to request that you investigate and take enforcement action in response to events that took place at the Thunder Creek Pork slaughterhouse in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan on October 24, 2021 at 1:49PM CST. As documented in the enclosed video, the driver of a Roberge Transport Inc. truck entering the slaughterhouse violently and unnecessarily hit pigs in a truck with a paddle, including by striking at least one animal in the face.<sup>1</sup>

The conduct by this driver documented in the enclosed video appears to contravene the National Farm Animal Care Council (“NFAACC”) Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs,<sup>2</sup> *The Animal Protection Act, 2018*, SS 2018, c A-21.2, and the Health of Animals Regulations, CRC c296.

**1. Legal Basis**

Section 4 of Saskatchewan’s *Animal Protection Act, 2018* states as follows:

- (1) No person shall cause an animal to be in distress.
- (2) No person responsible for an animal shall cause or permit the animal to be or to continue to be in distress.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=171418685195340>. Note that a longer version of this video is also attached to this email.

<sup>2</sup> See: [https://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/pig\\_code\\_of\\_practice.pdf](https://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/pig_code_of_practice.pdf).

While section 2(3) of the *Act* states that an animal will not be considered to be in distress if that animal is handled in accordance with “generally accepted practices of animal management”, the conduct in this video is well outside of what is considered “generally accepted”. The relevant NFACC code of practice is “Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs” which requires, *inter alia*, that:

- Pigs must be loaded, unloaded, handled and transported by competent persons (5.1);
- Pigs should be handled “quietly and patiently” during loading and unloading (5.3);
- Stock handlers must be knowledgeable about animal behaviour and skilled in handling pigs (5.3);
- Handlers must be competent in low-stress pig handling methods which recognize humane methods for moving pigs, the correct use of handling and “humane moving devices” (4.2); and
- Pigs must not be handled aggressively (4.1).

The Code also acknowledges that the transportation process is stressful for pigs and that rough handling can contribute to distress. It states that handlers should move slowly and deliberately. Although “chase boards” and “shakers” are listed as “humane handling devices” in the Code, it clearly prohibits aggressive handling of pigs and states that handlers should have positive attitudes and exhibit empathy towards pigs (4.1 - 4.2).

Section 144(1)(h) of the federal Health of Animals Regulations prohibits the transport of animals in a manner likely to cause an animal’s suffering, injury or death. The Regulations are clear that no person shall beat or strike an animal (s 144(1)(a)), use any “driving device on the animal in a manner that is likely to cause the animal’s suffering [or] injury” (s 144(1)(b)), or use any “driving device on an animal to make it move if it does not have a clear path to move” (s 144(1)(c)).

## **2. Pigs Were Unlawfully Struck and Beaten**

It is contrary to the above-noted standards and Regulations to strike pigs in a transport truck (or elsewhere) in a violent and aggressive manner, including by striking them in the face with a paddle. In addition to physical injury, the pigs struck by the individual shown in the enclosed video were likely subject to significant psychological distress prior to their slaughter at the Thunder Creek facility.

As agencies designated by legislation to oversee and enforce the *Health of Animals Act* and *Animal Protection Act, 2018*, you have the ability as well as the responsibility to investigate instances of possible abuse and bring violations of animal welfare law before the courts for adjudication. We strongly encourage your offices to investigate this incident and take action to prevent this kind of mistreatment of animals during transport from occurring in the future. We would be pleased to provide further

information or to otherwise assist you in your investigation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [kmitchell@animaljustice.ca](mailto:kmitchell@animaljustice.ca) if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaitlyn Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kaitlyn Mitchell  
Staff Lawyer, Animal Justice  
[kmitchell@animaljustice.ca](mailto:kmitchell@animaljustice.ca)  
647-746-8702

\*Encl.