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TIME TO END HORSE SLAUGHTER IN CANADA

There is an industry in Canada that most people are unaware even exists. *Every week*, thousands of horses meet their grisly fate in Canadian slaughter houses. This profit-driven industry supplies horse meat to markets overseas. The majority of Canadians do not support horse slaughter for human consumption, in fact a 2004 Ipsos-Reid poll reveals that 64% of Canadians do not support this practice. In 2006, 50,242 horses were slaughtered in Canada – the majority Canadian born and bred. In 2007, that number rose to almost 80,000, an increase of nearly 60%! 2008 numbers are expected to continue rising, with a growing percentage of horses exported from the U.S.

The last U.S. horse slaughter plant closed in the fall of 2007. However, until the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act is passed, thousands of horses are still being transported to Canada and Mexico for slaughter under horrible conditions in packed trailers over long distances. Statistics prove that shipments to Canada are significantly increasing. In 2007, two new horse slaughter plants started business in BC and Saskatchewan. Now Ontario has just licensed its 7th Canadian plant. These 3 plants are in addition to the existing 4 plants in Alberta and Quebec. Canada now has the shameful distinction as a major international supplier of horse meat to overseas markets.

Concerned Canadians must act now to help stop this inhumane practice in Canada. It is essential that our legislators be made aware of the plight of tens of thousands of horses that have become victims of this gruesome industry.

Our mission is to form a coalition of like-minded individuals and groups, to protect Canadian equines from slaughter and the export of equines for slaughter, by raising public consciousness through education, and achieving the enactment of legislation that will ban these practices in Canada.

On our website, read how horse slaughter is not a form of humane euthanasia, nor is it a "necessary evil". It is in fact a predatory business that sustains a culture of abuse and cruelty to horses.

**THE HORSES NEED YOU
 TO TAKE ACTION ON THEIR BEHALF**

Members of Parliament and the Minister of Agriculture must listen to the concerns of their constituents, who vote them into office. Please visit this link to locate your MP. Click on his or her name to find their contact information:

<http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPsCompleteList.aspx?TimePeriod=Current&Language=E> .

The Minister of Agriculture can be reached directly at either of these websites:

<http://www.gerryritzmp.com/>
http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/min/index_e.php?s1=help-aide&s2=contact

Send the following letter by post, fax, or e-mail. Better yet, personalize it by adding a few original sentences, or create your own message. (Can be found on the CHDC website.)

Dear Hon. _____:
 It has come to my attention that thousands of horses are killed every week in Canadian slaughterhouses, and that their flesh is shipped overseas for food. Some "meat" horses are victims of live export, and are therefore at the mercy of foreign laws or lack of them. I am further aware of an Ipsos-Reid poll conducted in May 2004 that revealed that 2/3 (64%) of adult Canadians polled "do not believe in the slaughter of Canadian horses for human consumption" .

<http://www.ipsos-na.com/news/pressrelease.cfm?id=2252> .

(Continued...)

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 AND DISTRIBUTE THIS FLYER**

Slaughter-bound horses originate from many sources. Show horses, racehorses, foals born as a "byproduct" of the Premarin industry (a female hormone replacement drug), wild horses, carriage horses, and family horses have all fallen prey to the horse slaughter industry. Increased U.S. imports are now a major concern, as all U.S. horse slaughterhouses are now closed. As well, new slaughterhouses are operating in SK, BC and ON. Horses have not traditionally been raised for human consumption in Canada, however they are being killed to satisfy the palates of overseas diners in Italy, France, Belgium, and Japan. Overcrowded feedlots, poor transport conditions, and cruel treatment of equines at slaughter plants are concerns that have been widely documented and continue to horrify many Canadians who believe that this industry must be abolished on humane grounds. Horses continue to be found dead on arrival at slaughter plants following transport. The slaughter process itself is not humane euthanasia; undercover video tells a story of terror, pain and prolonged suffering--hardly a fitting end for our trusting equine companions.

As your constituent, I seek your support in banning the slaughter of horses in Canada, and look forward to your prompt reply.

Yours truly,

(include your name and contact information)



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