

About the Symposium

The BC SPCA's first Canadian Animal Policy Symposium brings together provincial policymakers, industry stakeholders and animal welfare experts to discuss and share best practices in animal policy development. As governments strive to inform decision-making processes with scientific evidence, the symposium will consider how to ensure provincial policymaking impacting domestic, farm and wild animals effectively undergoes evidence-based examination in line with scientific welfare practices and public expectations.

Animal welfare is impacted by a wide array of laws existing at federal, provincial and municipal levels. Each Canadian province has its own animal protection legislation. However, the strength and scope of the legislation, as well as how successfully it is applied and enforced, differs between provinces. Additionally, it is not just animal protection laws that have a significant impact on animal well-being. Additional policy areas will have substantial effects, yet animal welfare may not be a consideration during decision-making.

Domestic, farm and wild animal welfare is both challenged and protected by different legislation and policies in each province. Government policy analysts must balance animal welfare with human demands and well-being. As public interest in animal well-being and protection grows, how do policymakers best implement scientific evidence supporting animal welfare while operating in a context where economic human needs are prioritized?

By bringing together policy analysts and stakeholders immersed in the development and oversight of animal-related policies, this symposium aims to affirm commitments to effectively considering and implementing animal welfare science into evidence-based policymaking. We look forward to your participation as we hear from leading scientific and legislative experts during our panel and speaker sessions throughout the day.

Themes

Our panel discussion and speaker sessions will explore the following symposium themes as we look to define, celebrate and improve best practices amongst policymakers whose work impacts animal well-being:

- 1) Achieving success in animal policy change
- 2) Balancing human demands and animal welfare when approaching policy development
- 3) Improving the integration of animal welfare science in policymaking

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE – MARCH 1, 2019

| Time | Event |
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| 8:30 am | Opening Remarks Hon. Lana Popham, British Columbia Minister for Agriculture |
| 8:45 am | Panel Discussion: How do changing perspectives on animal welfare influence policy making? Jane Pritchard, DVM, Chief Veterinary Officer, British Columbia Dan Weary, PhD, co-founder of UBC's Animal Welfare Program LeeAnn Forsythe, DVM, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, SK Jackie Wepruk, General Manager, National Farm Animal Care Council |
| 9:45 am | Presentation: A Comprehensive Approach to Animal Welfare in B.C. Team from the Policy and Legislation Branch, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture |
| 10:30 am | Break |
| 10:45 am | Presentation: Saskatchewan's Interagency Human and Animal Welfare Task Team LeeAnn Forsythe, DVM, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture |
| 11:30 am | Presentation: Development of Prince Edward Island's Animal Welfare Act Dwight Thompson, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist, Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Fisheries |
| 12:15 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 pm | Presentation: Policy Proposal to Improve Funding for Wildlife Conservation Kyle Doucette, Dalhousie University MPA Candidate |
| 1:20 pm | Presentation: National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice Development Jackie Wepruk, General Manager, National Farm Animal Care Council |
| 1:55 pm | Presentation: Secondary Sewage Treatment and Impacts on Marine Animals Leila Bautista, University of Victoria MPA Candidate |
| 2:15 pm | Presentation: Policy Options for Bighorn Sheep Mortality Prevention Glenna McGregor, DVM, Veterinary Pathologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture |
| 3:00 pm | Closing Remarks |

**Lana Popham, British Columbia Minister of Agriculture**

Lana was raised on Quadra Island in a do-it-yourself community, where growing food, raising animals and harvesting from the sea was a way of life. Her interest in urban planning led her to UBC where she graduated with a degree in geography.

In 1996, Lana made her home in Saanich. There she co-founded and operated Barking Dog Vineyard, the first certified organic vineyard on Vancouver Island. She also grew produce and sold it as part of Saanich Organics and at farmers' markets around Victoria.

After being elected in 2009, Lana served as the MLA for Saanich South, as well as Opposition critic for agriculture for eight years. Since being appointed Agriculture Minister

in July 2017, Lana has been working hard as the people's voice for the province's agricultural industry. As part of her mandate commitment to support farmers, ranchers and processors, the Ministry's three pillars of Grow BC, Feed BC and Buy BC are building more opportunities for those in the industry.

As Minister, Lana has been working to ensure that BC's Agricultural Land Reserve will be used for farming and ranching, by revitalizing the ALR and protecting land in B.C. so it will be available now and for future generations of farmers and ranchers.

**Dr. Dan Weary, PhD, co-founder of UBC's Animal Welfare Program**

Dan Weary is a professor at The University of British Columbia, Canada. Originally from Quebec, Dan moved to UBC in 1997 to co-found the University's Animal Welfare Program. Dan's research focuses on the scientific assessment of animal welfare. Dan is an NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Animal Welfare and has a background in biology at McGill University and zoology at Oxford University.

Dr. Jane Pritchard, DVM, Chief Veterinarian, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture

Jane Pritchard is currently the Executive Director of the Plant and Animal Health Branch within the Ministry of Agriculture in British Columbia. In this capacity, she serves as the Director for the veterinary diagnostic laboratory, known as the Animal Health Centre. Jane is also the designated Chief Veterinary Officer for the Province.

Jane obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto, her DVM from the University of Guelph and her Masters in anatomic pathology from Western College of Veterinary Medicine. In 2004, she became the first Public Health Veterinarian in the BC Ministry of Agriculture. In 2010, Jane became the Manager of the Livestock Health Management and Regulatory Unit. In 2012, she added on the role of Manager of the Plant Health Unit and in 2013 she took over her current role.



"Despite a wide-ranging career I have always felt a responsibility as a veterinarian to bring animal welfare into the role, whether it was considered part of the position or not."



Dr. LeeAnn Forsythe, DVM, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Dr. LeeAnn Forsythe joined the Ministry of Agriculture's Provincial Diagnostic Laboratory in October 1989 in the position of clinical/anatomical pathologist and, later, manager of the laboratory. A graduate of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) in 1983, Dr. Forsythe worked in private practice before returning to the WCVN for her Master of Veterinary Science in clinical pathology, graduating in 1989. Dr. Forsythe has worked in a number of capacities within the Ministry, including exploring Chronic Wasting Disease in Cervids, facilitating disease

investigation/surveillance programs and performing legislation enforcement. Currently, Dr. Forsythe is working with the Ministry of Agriculture as a disease surveillance veterinarian with primary responsibilities for animal welfare. She was lead for the amendments to Saskatchewan's The Animal Protection Act, 2018 and its regulations.

Dr. Glenna McGregor, DVM, Veterinary Pathologist, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture

Glenna McGregor is a veterinary pathologist working at the Animal Health Centre, BC Ministry of Agriculture. Glenna received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. She worked as a mixed animal practitioner in rural Ontario before returning to Saskatoon to complete a Master of Veterinary Science and Senior Residency in anatomic pathology with a specialization in wildlife health. She went on to achieve Diplomate status with the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 2015. As a veterinary diagnostic pathologist, she performs cause-of-death investigations on a wide range of species including livestock, wildlife, companion animals and exotics. She enjoys working with all species, with an especial fondness for bats.



Dwight Thompson, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist, Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Dwight Thompson develops and implements legislation as the Program and Legislative Specialist with the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. For the past decade, Dwight has been directly involved in the protection of animal welfare through directing enforcement activities and developing Prince Edward Island's Animal Welfare Act.

**Representative from the Agriculture and Science Policy Branch,
British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture**

The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture has a mandate for animal welfare in BC, including developing policy, legislation, conducting research, and providing education and strong implementation focused on improvements to animal welfare. BC's approach considers immediate and long-term actions based on extensive consultation and facilitation with stakeholders. This supports an effective provincial framework of strengthened animal welfare in BC. Examples of recent work: changes to BC's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, a Sled Dog Standard of Care Regulation and enshrining the Dairy Code of Practice in regulation. Important policy work under development: enshrining other livestock codes of practice in regulation; building a new regulatory regime for Breeders/Sellers of Dogs and Cats including enforceable Standards of Care.

Many branches across the Ministry's two divisions support the animal welfare mandate of the Ministry. The Agriculture Science and Policy Division includes policy, legislation and the Office of the Chief Veterinarian, while the Business Development Division includes industry and livestock specialists and regional agrologists who work directly with farmers, ranchers and their associations.

Jackie Wepruk, General Manager, National Farm Animal Care Council

Jackie Wepruk has been the General Manager of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) since its inception in 2005. In this capacity she facilitates a partnership on NFACC between governments, farmed animal industries, the veterinary community, the humane movement, food companies, and other allied groups. She assists NFACC's partners in achieving practical solutions to farm animal welfare concerns that address the interests of farmers, domestic and export markets, governments and the Canadian public.

Jackie obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Winnipeg, and a Master of Environmental Design from the University of Calgary.



**Leila Bautista, MPA candidate, University of Victoria**

Leila is a Master of Public Administration Student at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. As she completes her degree, Leila is working as an Economist (co-op) for the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development in Victoria.

Leila's career in the public sector began during her undergraduate studies, completing co-op terms for the Ontario Public Service. She completed her Bachelor of Arts from Wilfrid Laurier University with honours in Economics and Political Science. After graduation, she spent 4 years working in market research for the private sector. Leila recently travelled to Australia for a co-op placement with Biosecurity Queensland's Strategy and Legislation team.

Kyle Doucette, MPA candidate, Dalhousie University

Kyle attended Holland College and the University of Prince Edward Island, obtaining a diploma in Wildlife Conservation Technology and a Bachelor of Wildlife Conservation, respectively. He is currently working towards a Master of Public Administration at Dalhousie University. He is greatly interested in wildlife policy issues, particularly methods to improve funding and revenue streams for provincial/territorial wildlife agencies to better deliver core program objectives.

Kyle worked as a wildlife technician for Ducks Unlimited Canada through his time in college to deliver habitat management goals in the Peace Region of BC and back home in PEI. He also spent two years working with Veterans Affairs Canada while finishing his degree at the University of Prince Edward Island.

For several years, Kyle has been a volunteer with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service. In his spare time, Kyle enjoys reading, birding, kayaking, hiking and waterfowl and upland bird hunting. He currently lives in Halifax, NS with his partner Hannah, and their mischievous cat, Gilbert.

