



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

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March 14, 2018

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilson-Raybould,

Following our earlier correspondence in 2016, I am writing again on the subject of animal cruelty and with respect to an incident that occurred in Duncan, BC in my riding of Cowichan-Malahat-Langford.

Earlier this year, and in what the BC SPCA has described as one of the most profoundly shocking and disturbing cases of abuse ever witnessed, officers seized a dog from a property in Duncan that was found to be in severe distress. The dog was severely emaciated, tethered with only a few inches of movement, standing in a pile of mud and feces, and had its collar deeply embedded in its neck, causing an infection and a swelling of the head to almost three times its normal size. The embedded collar caused a wound that exposed the dog's trachea and jugular vein and was severely infected. Unfortunately, the dog, who the community has now named "Teddy," could not be saved.

Minister, this incident has provoked outrage in my community, and many residents have reached out to me to share their concerns about what happened to Teddy and to demand that the federal government act to implement tougher animal cruelty legislation.

New Democrats have proudly led the charge over the years on strengthening regulations and penalties for animal abuse including MP Fin Donnelly's Bill C-380, which would have banned the importation of shark fins, former MP Peggy Nash's Bill C-232, which would have strengthened the language of federal animal cruelty laws and former MP Isabelle Morin's Bill C-592 which would have established penalties for those who were guilty of cruel acts against animals.

You will recall the House of Commons again had the opportunity to make real progress on this issue when we debated MP Erskine-Smith's Private Member's Bill, C-246, the *Modernizing Animal Protections Act*. I was proud to support that legislation at the time, but unfortunately it was overwhelmingly defeated by Liberal and Conservative votes in October of 2016.

You will also recall that as Justice Minister, and following your government's defeat of Bill C-246, you made a commitment to reviewing the animal cruelty provisions in the Criminal Code, to making broad consultations, and to taking action to improve our antiquated laws.

During Bill C-246's debate and continuing after its defeat, I heard from many constituents who spoke loudly in support of improving our animal protection laws. I know this was echoed by Canadians across the country. It is my hope that the case of Teddy the dog will serve as a catalyst for this improvement.

On behalf of all my concerned constituents, I ask that you provide a timely response that details the work you intend to do as Minister of Justice to improve our animal cruelty laws.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

Cc: Constituents

Cc: Murray Rankin, MP and NDP Critic for Justice