



The Honourable / L'honorable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., députée  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8



DEC 04 2018

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.  
Room 519, Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 21, 2018, concerning my review of the animal cruelty provisions of the *Criminal Code*. I regret the delay in responding.

As you know, on October 18, 2018, I introduced in the House of Commons Bill C-84, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (bestiality and animal fighting)*. The Bill received Second Reading on October 29, 2018, and was referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. This proposed legislation would strengthen the *Criminal Code* to address a gap in the bestiality offences and prohibit a broader range of activities around animal fighting.

The Bill responds to the Supreme Court of Canada's *D.L.W.* decision, which found that, in the absence of a definition of bestiality in the *Criminal Code*, the common law meaning of bestiality is limited to penetrative acts between humans and animals. Bill C-84 proposes to address this gap by adding a definition of bestiality that would prohibit all contact with an animal for a sexual purpose. This amendment would offer greater protections to children and vulnerable persons, as well as to animals.

The Bill also proposes to strengthen the animal fighting provisions in the *Criminal Code* by banning a broader range of activities associated with animal fighting, such as promoting, arranging, and profiting from animal fighting, as well as breeding, training, or transporting an animal to fight. In addition, it would prohibit the keeping of any arena for the purpose of animal fighting, not just cockfighting as the law currently stands.

Given the importance of strengthening the law around bestiality and animal fighting, this bill is a targeted response with two amendments that are strongly supported by key stakeholders, including animal rights supporters and animal use stakeholders, such as agricultural organizations. With respect to amendments to other animal cruelty provisions, I would be happy to receive any recommendations that you may wish to share with me.

Thank you again for writing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JWR', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada