



Response to Bill C-275 Senate Hearing

To the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,

We would like to clarify inaccuracies that were shared during testimony on September 19, 2024 regarding Bill C-275.

First, to Mr. Sadik's statement, "There has been discussion during hearings on this bill about enforcement of codes developed by the National Farm Animal Care Council, NFACC. These are non-binding guidelines developed largely by industry, and there are no government or even NFACC inspections to monitor whether the guidelines are being adhered to."

Chicken Farmers of Canada has, through regulatory authority under supply management, made the requirements in NFACC's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens, and Turkeys mandatory and enforced on all supply managed chicken farms in the country. NFACC's Codes of Practice development process includes a scientific committee to review research on priority welfare issues through a transparent process. It also requires broad stakeholder participation to ensure quality animal care standards are established and implemented; this includes farmers/producers, transporters, veterinarians, animal welfare and enforcement agencies, retail and food service organizations, processors, governments and researchers. All Code requirements are included in our *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* Animal Care Program, and certification on this program is mandatory for all supply-managed farmers to sell their chicken. The program is jointly managed with our On Farm Food Safety Program using an ISO-based management system that has full Federal, Provincial and Territorial government recognition through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's On-Farm Food Safety Recognition Program. Farmers receive annual audits to verify compliance, and the entire system is additionally subject to third-party audits which continue to demonstrate that Chicken Farmers of Canada has effectively and consistently implemented the *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* On-Farm Food Safety Program and Animal Care Programs.

Second, Ms. McElwain responded on behalf of all Animal Health Canada (AHC) members in general, when stating that biosecurity protocols are not made public, in response to Senator Dalphond's questions. We can't speak for other AHC members but would like to clarify that Chicken Farmers of Canada's [On-Farm Food Safety](#) and [Animal Care Program](#) manuals, with all the requirements and record keeping forms, are publicly available on our website. Chicken Farmers of Canada is proud of the high standards that our farmers maintain, and is pleased to share these requirements publicly for anyone who may want to learn more.