



INTERIM REPORT OUTBREAK OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS IN ALBERTA

**Standing Senate Committee
on Agriculture and Forestry**

The Honourable Ghislain Maltais
Chair

The Honourable Terry M. Mercer
Deputy Chair

December 2016

Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français.
www.senate-senat.ca/AGFO.asp.

Information regarding the committee can be obtained through its web site:
www.senate-senat.ca/AGFO.asp.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

Extract from the *Journals of the Senate*, Thursday, November 24, 2016:

With leave of the Senate,

The Honourable Senator Maltais moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Dagenais:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry be authorized to examine and report on the current situation involving the bovine tuberculosis outbreak in southeastern Alberta, the quarantine that farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan are under, and the movement controls in place for cattle. The study will focus on:

- (a) factors explaining the outbreak of the disease;
- (b) measures taken by the federal government and the relevant authorities to control the spread of the disease and to eradicate it from the Canadian cattle population; and
- (c) possible effects on the Canadian cattle sector.

That, for the purposes of this study, the committee have the power to meet, even though the Senate may then be sitting on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m, and that rule 12-18(1) be suspended in relation thereto;

That, pursuant to rule 12-18(2)(b)(i), the committee be authorized to sit from Monday, January 2, 2017 to Monday, January 30, 2017, inclusive, even though the Senate may then be adjourned for a period exceeding one week; and

That the committee submit its final report to the Senate no later than February 28, 2017, and that the committee retain all powers necessary to publicize its findings until 180 days after the tabling of the final report.

After debate,

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

Charles Robert

Clerk of the Senate

Further to the discovery of a case of bovine tuberculosis in Alberta, the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (referred to as the Committee) was authorized to undertake a study aiming at examining the current situation involving some producers from Alberta and Saskatchewan. More specifically, the study focused on understanding the factors explaining the outbreak of the disease; the measures taken by the federal government and the relevant authorities to control the spread of the disease and to eradicate it from the Canadian cattle population; and the possible effects on the Canadian cattle sector.

On 29 November 2016, the Committee heard from Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada and Associate Vice-President, Operations Branch, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and Rosser Lloyd, Director General, Business Risk Management Programs Directorate, Programs Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

During the testimony of the witnesses, the following topics were raised:

- The methods of transmission of the disease.
- Compensation programs intended for producers whose cattle have been eliminated or placed under quarantine.
- Measures undertaken by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to efficiently conduct testing in Alberta and Saskatchewan, track back the source of the contamination, and demonstrate the effectiveness of the Canadian bovine tuberculosis-free status.
- The Canadian mandatory National Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program which has been effective since 1923.
- Adequate inspection program to effectively detect cases of diseases in Canadian slaughterhouses which are federally inspected.
- The duration of the CFIA investigation.
- The status of bovine tuberculosis in North America and how this could affect trade between Canada and the United States.
- Cases of bovine tuberculosis in the United States.
- Potential impacts of the discovery of this case on food safety and public health.

Should the situation deteriorate, the Committee intends to organize additional meetings on this study.

WITNESSES:

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada:

Rosser Lloyd, Director General, Business Risk Management Programs Directorate,
Programs Branch.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar, Ph.D., Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada and Associate Vice-
President, Operations Branch.