CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

SCOPING MEETING

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Held at Morden Legion Hall
Morden, Manitoba

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

Mr. Terry Sargeant     Chairman
Mr. Norm Brandson      Member
Mr. Wayne Motheral     Member
Ms. Cathy Johnson      Commission Secretary
Mr. Doug Smith         Report Writer

Presentations:

Bill Harrison  - Personal  7
Ann Marie Gray  - Personal  24
Hans Borst    - Personal  26
Ab Freig      - Puratone  30
Gordon Orchard- Personal  36
Cheryl Kennedy
Courcelles    - Personal  44
Glen Koroluk  - Beyond Factory Farming  64
Jack Peters   - Personal  77
Gerald Enns   - Green Party of Man.  91
Martin Unrau  - Cattle Producers Assoc.  102

Reporter:
Lisa Reid
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007

UPON COMMENCING AT 1:05 p.m.

THE COMMISSIONER: Good afternoon. I think we will get going now. Good afternoon. My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission. As well, I'm the Chair of this panel. With me on the panel are Mr. Norm Brandson of Winnipeg and Mr. Wayne Motheral who, some of you will know, is a resident of Morden.

I have a few opening comments. I apologize to those of you who sat through Winnipeg and Steinbach, you may have heard me refer to these before. It just sets out our mandate briefly and why we're here today.

The Clean Environment Commission has been requested by the Minister of Conservation to conduct an investigation into the environmental sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba. The sustainability of hog production, pardon me, is one aspect of the hog industry.

The Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us to review the current environmental protection measures in place relating to hog production, in order to determine
their effectiveness for the purpose of managing
the industry in a sustainable manner.

Our investigation is to include a
public component to gain advice and feedback from
Manitobans, and this is one initial step in that
process. This will be by means of the public
meetings in the various regions of the province to
ensure broad participation.

We have also been asked to take into
account efforts under way in other jurisdictions
to manage hog production in a sustainable way.

Further, we are to review the contents
of a report prepared by Manitoba Conservation
entitled "An Examination of the Environmental
Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

At the end of our investigation, we
will consider various options and make
recommendations in our report to the Minister on
any improvements that may be necessary to provide
for the environmental sustainability of hog
production.

To ensure that our view includes
issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
has undertaken to hold three days of what we call
scoping meetings, open to groups and individuals
who would like to identify and suggest issues related to hog production in Manitoba and which could be addressed by the panel. Today is the third and last of those scoping meetings.

We are not here today to engage in in-depth discussion on these issues. There will be opportunities at a series of meetings to be held throughout southern Manitoba in March and April for detailed input. A list of the dates and places for those meetings is available at the back table.

Presentations today are to be limited to 15 minutes. What we are looking for today is identification and an introduction of issues you believe we should consider in our review, a brief reasoning as to why these issues should be part of our review, and any suggestions you might have on how the panel could approach our investigation.

As well, written submissions will be accepted. Information as to how to submit written suggestions is also available at the back table, as well as on our website. The deadline for written submissions, in respect of the scoping part of our review, is February 2nd. There will be a later date for more detailed written
submissions.

The panel will use the information gathered in the scoping process to help us focus the review, investigate the issues, gather additional information from the public, and ultimately develop conclusions and recommendations for the Minister.

Some administrative matters. If you wish to make a presentation today, would you please register at the table at the back of the room, if you haven't already done so.

As is our normal practice, we are recording these sessions. Transcripts will be available online in a day or so. And to find those transcripts, you can go to our website and then follow the links.

There is also -- for the main round of hearings in March and April, there will be a small participant assistance program, that is small amounts of money available to community groups that wish to put together a presentation for those hearings. If you might be interested in applying for a participant assistance grant, the information is also at the back table.

Finally, two things, I would ask that
you turn cell phones off, please. Also, I would
ask that you not engage in side conversations
while people are making presentations to the
panel. Thank you very much.

We have a list already established of
people who have applied, either in the past few
days, or earlier this afternoon. The first person
on the list is Mr. Bill Harrison. When you're
making a presentation, I would ask that you come
up to this table at the front, state your name for
the record, and then proceed with your
presentation. Mr. Harrison?

MR. HARRISON: Good afternoon. My
name is Bill Harrison. I live just a mile --
pardon me, three quarters of a mile south of the
village of St. Lupicin, which is south of
Altamone, Manitoba, six miles south.

I want to thank the Clean Environment
Commission here for allowing me to speak my mind
here on an issue of great -- it feels of great
importance to all Manitobans. And it is a greater
watershed for all of us, the watershed comes from
the rocky mountains and east. And we should be
concerned about the health of our water. That's
my primary reason for being here is public health
and safety and over-abuse of the environment by
increasing growth of the hog industry, which I
feel is large enough as it is, and that is my
personal feeling. I have nothing against the
raising of hogs if it's done in, you know, a safe
and humane manner. People have to eat. And
people choose to eat pork. I choose to eat pork
from smaller producers, if I eat it at all, from
people who I know and I trust. And I know they
are not raising their animals in total confinement
and feeding them feed which is often contaminated,
in my mind, with animal byproducts, the over-use
of antibiotics and, you know, such heavy metals to
put in the feed to fatten them all.

But, again, my first concern is water
and the overconsumption of it by the hog industry
using clean groundwater to feed, cool and wash the
barns and liquify the manure.

I feel that I.L.O.s should be metered
and be paying for the use of water because they
are using such huge quantities of it. A much less
amount is used to raise a human being than there
is to raise a hog.

And groundwater is being polluted with
high coliform and E. coli bacteria counts are
increasing. I found that in my own well. It is pretty hard to trace that back to where it comes from, of course, so there could be other sources, I must admit. But I don't feel the government is doing enough to investigate the quality of our water, groundwater particularly. Those of us in rural Manitoba don't rely on treated water.

Okay. And pollution of surface water as well from spring run-off of liquid manure spread in winter on snow, you know, that should be stopped. And then continuing, the pollution of the water, including phosphorus, nitrates and heavy metals and antibiotics from feed and various disease pathogens.

The next concern is air quality. A: In barns there is a high concentration of hydrogen sulfide and ammonium, which people breathe and the animals breathe as well, which can damage the health of both of them. And the workers, especially in the winter time, air is not exchanged which is often due to the barn owners not wanting to lose heat. But there is always room for improvement there, one would hope.

Now, another concern about air quality is the bad air drifting into neighbour's property
and neighbouring towns, communities, et cetera, that could cause harm to the health of young and old; in particular, those with asthma, and other respiratory disease.

The air stinks, preventing rural neighbours from enjoying everything from backyard barbecues to community events such as soccer and baseball tournaments, et cetera. And it also prevents people from sleeping with their windows open in the summertime, if they happen to be downwind from these barns.

Soil pollution is another concern. Spreading out the hog manure on crop soils has revealed contamination of the matter with heavy metals again, over-application of phosphorus, nitrate, et cetera.

4: Manure handling and storage:
A: The liquid manure process should be banned to save water quality and volume. There are alternatives. Manure could be, and it is being done -- I noticed a study or an exam being done by some young hog producers, who have bio-tecs north of Treherne. And they are busy working with the province on trying to find a good way to compost the manure. And they are using -- of course, in
these barns they are using the straw method of bedding, instead of having animals stand on slotted cement floors and standing above their urine and shit all their lives.

And animal cruelty, this is what brings me to animal cruelty. The sow crates should be banned to allow freedom and comfort. Slotted cement floors should be outlawed and animals should be given straw bedding for increased health and comfort. It is not natural for anybody to be standing on cement floors too long. We know that it cripples human feet, never mind the animals that suffer from this. Many of them become crippled up and then they are just discarded.

If you've driven much in the country here and gone by the factory barns, you see the pens. There is one nearby me right now and it is overflowing. I mean, if the hog industry could take some advice from me today, you know, get those darn bins cleaned up quickly. It doesn't do anybody good to see that. And it doesn't show that you are really looking after your business properly. A lot of pigs are subject to that air.

Factory barns should have windows
and/or skylights to permit hogs to enjoy natural sunlight. We even allow our prisoners in our jails yard time and fresh air.

Increase fresh air consumption in the factory barns, as in bio-tec barns which are open-ended. And use the straw bedding, again, as I say.

Now, give hogs more room in their stalls to prevent stress and fighting.

Now, workers protection is another point. Factory barns workers have no protection under Manitoba labour laws, like all other Manitoba workers, because they are wrongly classified as agricultural workers.

Factory barns are factory barns. They are not family farm barns. And if you're incorporated you are no longer a family farm. You can't use that as an excuse. When you incorporate, you are a corporation. You are big business. And you cannot use the defense that you are a family farm. It's an oxymoron. You cannot be both.

Factory barn workers are also not covered by Workman's Compensation. So if they become ill from accidents or the hydrogen sulphide
or ammonia that they are breathing, they are on
their own, with only the healthcare system to
treat them.

Also, I would like to say, number 7,
this is a false economy. Hog factories haven't
been a great boon to rural communities. They
inflict themselves on them. They are mostly built
with investor money from anywhere. So profits, if
any, can flow out and can go anywhere in the
world. But I don't see a lot of it sitting in my
neighbourhood, that's for sure.

Government investment, that is
taxpayer support, in the form of grants and tax
breaks, is not a true economy.

The Big Sky people that just pulled
out of OlyWest, and I am sure there is a lot of
pressure from the Government of Saskatchewan,
which funds Big Sky over 40 percent of taxpayers'
money, you know, that's what runs that company.
They have been told that they can't build a plant
in Winnipeg, so they have to pull back and do
something in Saskatchewan. Because why would
Saskatchewan want to send their money and their
people's jobs out of the province, after they
invested all of that taxpayers' money?
Factory barn jobs are blue collar workers, which they are. They are essentially, you know, blue collar workers that are in low-paying and often part-time work due to intense mechanization in these barns. Yes, technology has its place, but it also displaces and also lowers people's wages.

Food quality and safety is another point. Because of a steady diet of antibiotics in the feed, the hogs develop antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria in their guts, which results in difficult treatment of resulting infections from illnesses people get from eating this contaminated meat.

In Europe, there again, they are not allowed to use the antibiotics, except to treat the animals that are sick. It's not part of their diet. And it shouldn't be here either. There is no difference between people, human beings in Europe and human beings here. They deserve the same rights.

Now also, the meat is genetically manipulated. These hogs are raised because they want to get the best hogs, the most consistent size because it helps run them through the factory
more efficiently. But the stressed factory hogs, smelling their own feces and urine, which they stand above all their lives, produces a very questionable quality of meat. I know for one I can't eat that meat because I can smell that excrement in the meat when it's cooking.

Social problems are another major issue. As I've indicated just by some of these other issues, hog I.L.O.s disrupts rural lifestyle, that is the quality of life as a result of all of the aforementioned concerns.

And then government interference. The Provincial Government blindly promotes the hog industry in Manitoba, in spite of evidence of harm to our environment, water, air, you know, et cetera, air and soil and public resistance. Hog producers are a minority of rural population in a traditionally volatile livestock industry.

I have nothing against people making a living. But at least treat these animals with the respect that they deserve because that's what you are eating. And you should be treating yourselves with the same respect. And when you treat these animals, you know, malevolently, you are only hurting yourselves in the long run.
The Provincial Government killed Bill 40 under public pressure, but re-introduced it as Bill 33, which removed the public right to take councils and governments to court for lack of enforcement of local bylaws and provincial regulations. So much for democracy. All to suit the hog industry.

I am not talking about hog farmers, which are at a steady decline. They are a minority in this province now. Small producers have a hard time making a living. It has taken away a lot of living from a lot of family farms. A lot of people just gave up on hogs because they are not efficient enough, according to Maple Leaf, people like Maple Leaf and Leaf Swine, you know, and Hytek, et cetera.

Manitoba Conservation is ignoring Farm Practices Guidelines regarding siting of Picardie Farms at St. Lupicin. That's an example of, you know, government disinterest and interference.

And Bill 33 also reduced an R.M.'s authority, i.e. the local residents, in approving or rejecting hog factories in their jurisdictions.

So if I would make a few suggestions to the panel, I would say:
A: Conduct hog production sustainability hearings, you know, under the Manitoba Evidence Act, instead of these meetings, so that citizens can cross-examine information from hog industry proponents and have information put on the record.

Interview workers who have suffered illness or injury working in barns and slaughter plants. Also interview people who live around and near factory hog barns.

Examine poor fines and lack of enforcement regarding manure stored and improperly spread on parcels of Provincial Government land.

Examine the idea of "full cost accounting" of the hog industry, which would include the true cost -- you know, for example, true cost accounting is looking at the environment and social cost, as well as it is just the cost, you know, of the industry itself.

Interview environmentalist organizations and individuals as well for their input. These people are not getting paid for what they do. They are people that have heartfelt concerns about the environment and the health of the population, as well as, of course, the animals. You know, they are not all vegetarians.
They are not all tree huggers. You know, don't throw names around here. We are all human beings, who I am sure all care about, you know, our animals and ourselves, in particular.

The abuse of the democratic process by Manitoba Pork Council lobbyists is unduly influencing underpaid municipal councillors and reeves and CAOs, and I'll stand by that. I can't prove it, but I sure see it in my neighbourhood. I can't see why some poorly paid councillor wouldn't enjoy going for lunch with, you know, the Manitoba Pork Council representative who travels the province attending meetings and promoting the hog industry, leaving pamphlets behind. Sorry, he is paid to do that.

People like myself and other concerned citizens, we are not paid. We are just doing this again because of our concern, you know, for the health and welfare of human beings and animals.

We should make the Technical Review Committee non-political and make their recommendations true and binding. You know, people, they are just totally ignored. Technical reviews, you might as well throw them out the way they are now.
We should investigate the province's role in subsidizing corporate hog production. If the Manitoba Pork Council has multi-millions of dollars in check-off funding annually, they should not need to get financial assistance from the taxpayers. Corporate business is private business. They don't need government assistance. They have got their own money.

Take NGO's suggestions seriously and investigate our recommendations and make concrete suggestions to the general -- you know, general public. Call press conferences with your findings after your public hearings.

And I would ask that the board, in particular, to investigate the 2004 study in Iowa by an international group of environmental scientists, it's an on-line scientific journal of the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. And there are six reports published in November 2006 in environmental health perspectives there on the site.

And search online for the research team leader, Peter Thorne, Director of the University of Iowa's Environmental Health Sciences Research Centre. This is the most up-to-date
significant respected research on the hog industry today. So I hope the board will examine that in your future endeavours. And that's it. Thank you very much.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr. Harrison.

Next on my agenda is Mr. Hugh Arklie.

MR. ARKLIE: Good afternoon. My name is Hugh Arklie, formerly from Morden and now presently of the R.M. of Springfield.

There are four broad categories that must be included in the analysis of the hog industry in Manitoba that purports to be thorough. They are:

1. Environmental degradation
2. Human illness
3. Animal cruelty
4. Social discord

Environmental degradation includes air, soil and water pollution. Examples are hydrogen sulfide in plumes, heavy metals in the soil and antibiotics in the water. Our erstwhile cavalier attitude towards such degradation must change.

Human illness results from
environmental degradation. People get sick from chronic exposure to hydrogen sulfide. When they eat meat tainted with sub-therapeutic antibiotics, they develop resistance to curative antibiotics and have greater difficulty fighting infections. Why do we tolerate, even invite, such illness? Any review of human illness should also include the dangers to factory workers, killing plant labourers and mental anguish suffered by the neighbours of hog factories.

Animal cruelty is rampant in hog factories. Sows are brutally treated, piglets are taken from their mothers prematurely, and pigs are kept in crowded, sunless factories. These animals are deprived of their natural behaviours. And in treating them cruelly, we deny our own superior humanity. As a lawful society, we can get away with this because our leaders, upon the supplication of corporations, have written laws that sanitize cruelty to animals, as long as cruelty to animals is ordinarily a technique used to make a profit. The Animal Care Act, which encourages and condones cruelty to farm animals, should be struck down and re-written in the context of humaneness.
Few of your presenters will raise the issue of social discord, yet this is the primary reason why the "pause" or "temporary moratorium" has been established. The hog industry has violated its privileges. Starting in 1976 it was exempted from civil behaviour by the Nuisance Act. In 1992, the Farm Practices Protection Act superseded the Nuisance act, and hog factories have used this legislation to avoid its social responsibilities.

The provincial civil service also contributes to social discord by invariably being the champion and mouthpiece of the industry. This moratorium must question why the public service no longer serves the public? Why are Technical Review Committees the exclusive domain of civil servants? Why is enforcement sparse and penalties sparing? Why do senior civil servants end up in management at the Manitoba Pork Council? How do they relate and interact with their former colleagues in the public service?

The Environment Act and The Sustainable Development Act make numerous references to social issues and human wellness.

In my experience, Environmental Impact Assessments
that invoke these sections of these Acts are rare, indeed. I trust that the Clean Environment Commission will include these issues in the subsequent public meetings that are to be held in March or April.

Finally, I need to know the number. What number, you ask? The number of pigs that will be the upper limit to be raised in Manitoba. Today it is approximately nine million. Is that the limit? Is the limit ten million? Should it be six million? Can it be twenty million? The hog industry, politicians, public servants and citizens must answer the question of capacity. It is self-evident and unavoidable that there is a ceiling on this industry's impact. We must identify that capacity before the moratorium is lifted. I want to know the number. I want to know it because we cannot grow our way to sustainability.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr. Arklie. Thank you very much for your presentation this afternoon.

Is Ann Marie Gray here?

MS. GRAY: Good afternoon. Thank you for having me.
My name is Ann Marie Gray. I live in St. Lupicin in the old rectory. And I have recently purchased the old craft gallery in St. Lupicin. And if I look in the tourism handbook, I see that it's still being advertised for the Pembina Valley.

Now, my concerns for the area that I live in are three: the water, the air and the dust. And I didn't know where to go to talk about these things, but then now I know I'm at the right place, because this is a Clean Environment Commission.

So about the water, I had the water tested and it's polluted. We're under boil advisory. I also go to the Altima Community Club and visit with the seniors. And I see there is a big sign over the taps that say that you cannot use that water because it's under boil advisory.

The smell is something else. I live about half a mile from the pig farm, or industry, or whatever you want to call it. What I understand is the lagoon gets covered, or maybe it's not even covered right now, but with straw. Well, we have lots of wind in our area. I guess that's why the area was chosen for the wind
turbines. And so straw doesn't stay put very
long, so I don't think it's a very effective way
of trying to keep smell down.

And then that dust from the big
trucks, the semis that go day and night to that
location, whether it's hauling pigs or feed or
whatever. And the dust is -- well, you can't keep
windows open for sure in the summertime for the
dust and the smell.

So I don't know who is responsible for
keeping the dust downwind or the smell or even the
water. And with having purchased the gallery, I
used to own a tea room. And I was kind of hoping
that I would be able to have, even if it's, you
know, homemade soup and stuff like that available
in the gallery. But now do you think that the
Department of Health would let me have a little
tea room with contaminated water? Anyways, come
by my place in the summertime and come and see,
see if I'm allowed to do that. I want to thank
you very much.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Could I
just ask you, Ms. Gray, your source of water, is
that your own well or is it municipal?

MS. GRAY: It's a well. It's the well
THE COMMISSIONER: Is it your own well or is it a municipal water system?

MS. GRAY: It's my own well, but I don't know where the municipal water system is.

THE COMMISSIONER: That's what I was asking. I guess not. Okay, thank you.

Next is Mr. Hans Borst.

MR. BORST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am a livestock producer and on our farm we produce dairy and beef.

THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry, Mr. Borst, could you introduce yourself for the record, please?

MR. BORST: I am Hans Borst.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MR. BORST: And I am a livestock producer of dairy and beef. And I am here today to talk to the Clean Environment Commission about the importance of an environmentally sustainable livestock production, including hog production in Manitoba. All livestock producers in Manitoba are governed by some of the strictest
environmental regulations in Canada and North America. The Minister of Conservation himself made this claim in December of 2006. Livestock producers have participated in the development of the Livestock Manure and Mortality Management Regulations and their amendments. We are pleased that the Manitoba government has sought the input of livestock producers and included many of our suggestions for the practical improvement of early drafts of these regulations and in the development of the final regulations.

We, the livestock sector in Manitoba, are well aware of the need for clean water for humans and livestock, the need for soil nutrients for the production of grains and oilseeds, for clean air and for the protection of the environment.

Manitoba livestock producers have become the best managers of their diverse industries and exceed all of North America by being in compliance with these regulations for water, soil, nutrients and air.

Why? They have to be in compliance. Regulations for developing and operating livestock operations are such that livestock operations are
in compliance with our scientific based regulations.

2: They can be in compliance. The wide open spaces, the vast distances to population centers, and the nearly unlimited need for nutrients for tens of thousands of acres of crop and pasture land, the abundance and efficiency of feed growing on the prairies are the envy of livestock producers around the world.

It is in the livestock producers' best interests to be in compliance for a number of reasons. Most livestock producers live where they have their operations. Nutrient manure management, according to regulations, is the most economical way of managing minerals and feeding crops.

4: It would be a disaster for the environment if we push an industry which is compliant with our regulations out of rural Manitoba. It does not make any common sense to transport our livestock feed grains around the world and bring back fertilizer to grow the same feeds. At the same time, we are burning fossil fuels for transportation and are giving up on the value of turning pork, a meat commodity, into a
consumer-ready product.

The Clean Environment Commission has called these scoping meetings "to ensure that the review includes issues of importance to all Manitobans," to quote your own website.

The issues that are of prime importance to me are, first, that the Clean Environment Commission should only review those issues that have an impact on the environment as requested by the Minister.

Second, to be more specific, the review should focus on the interaction of the Manitoba hog production industry with the soil, water and air. There is a recent nutrient management research which is nearing completion that should form an integral part of the Clean Environment Commission review. Manitoba research is much more credible than information imported from elsewhere. The University of Manitoba agriculture and food sciences should be your primary source of Manitoba information.

Third, the timing of the Clean Environment Commission's review and final report are an important issue. The whole livestock industry in Manitoba, especially the Manitoba hog
industry, are living under a cloud. Please proceed with the review in a timely way to ensure that the uncertainty that has been imposed on the Manitoba livestock industry can be removed and further investment in Manitoba's livestock industry is not inhibited any longer than necessary.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my ideas.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Mr. Borst.

And Ab Freig?

MR. FREIG: Thank you. My name is Ab Freig. I am the President and CEO of the Puratone Corporation. I want to thank you for the opportunity to present, on behalf of my company, and the hundreds of employees, shareholders and independent producers who make up our company, Puratone.

Let me first give you a brief description of Puratone. We are a major swine production company operating mainly in Manitoba. The company was founded in Niverville in 1973 by local people of approximately 10. We now employ 360 people who work on farms, feed mill, do
trucking and working in the office. Our current payroll exceeds $10 million a year and is mostly spent in rural Manitoba.

The company owns and manages approximately 46,000 sows in numerous locations in Manitoba.

Let me speak to you about Puratone's commitment to the environment. Puratone has a strong and genuine commitment to the environment. We are committed to be a leader in the environmental field.

Our commitment stems from our conviction that the environment must be protected for our generation, our children and grandchildren's generation and many generations to come. We also believe it is good business and it is in our best interests to be good stewards of the land.

We believe in the strong link between community well-being and the protection of the environment. Our employees, our shareholders and our families live in close proximity to most of our facilities. We also enjoy and use for leisure the lakes and river systems in Manitoba. We are committed to working with the local and provincial
governments and our colleagues in the industry
towards progressive and sustainable regulations,
guidelines and best practices.

To further demonstrate our commitment to the environment, we have subjected our environmental management system to the rigorous international standards of the ISO for 14001 program. Our environmental management system gets audited every year by a third party independent auditors.

I want to take this opportunity to invite members of the CEC to visit any of our facilities to gain firsthand experience of the procedures and our commitment to the environment.

We consider the manure produced by the hog barns as a nutrient resource that needs to be applied correctly to yield the maximum benefit for the crops. We do not consider it waste and we don't treat it as such.

Our manure is applied with the appropriate quantity to benefit the plants and to prevent any build-up or run-offs. The manure is injected, wherever possible, to again maximize the plant uptake and minimize any possibility of run-offs or odour.
Now, I want to speak about our view of the CEC investigation. First of all, I want to say that Puratone welcomes the CEC audit of the swine industry. Puratone has a high regard to the work and objectivity of the CEC.

We welcome a fact-based and objective review of our industry.

We don't agree with the Manitoba government -- we don't agree that the Manitoba government needed to impose a pause on the new construction of hog barns while you conduct your audit. However, we are fully committed to cooperate with the CEC to assist you in making sound and fact-based recommendations.

And here is our expectations and recommendations to the CEC. The process must be conducted in a timely manner. The industry cannot afford the uncertainty resulting from this pause. The longer the process, the more damage to the industry's current and long-term prospective.

The hog industry is a $1 billion industry to the Manitoba economy. The industry directly employees more than 15,000 people in Manitoba. You must take into account the impact of the delay on the lives of those people and
Secondly, the review must be objective, fact and science based. The Committee must carefully review the available science-based information and must avoid the pressure from interested groups and media. It must be fact based and based on science.

The Committee should work diligently to understand the nature of the Manitoba environment and to gain understanding of the environmental procedures utilized by the industry. You must be able to understand how the industry functions today and understand how that relates to the Manitoba environment and landscape.

Third, the process must be fair and balanced. The people that are working directly in the industry, who will be directly impacted by the recommendations of the CEC, must be involved in providing the pertinent information you need as part of your review.

Fourth, the CEC must focus on the environmental sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba.

I wanted to also take a minute to talk about the scope, what our company's understanding
of what your scope is, and what's your mandate.

Our understanding is that your scope includes the
review of the environmental regulations, current
and proposed.

Your review of the hog industry: Your
review -- you must be also reviewing the industry
practices and guidelines. After reviewing the
environmental regulations currently proposed, the
industry practices and guidelines, you would need
to determine the impact of the industry practices
and regulations on water quality.

Our understanding from when the
Premier made the announcement, or the government
made the announcement and discussion with
Ministers and the Premier, is that the
understanding was the government was mostly
concerned about water. The government was mostly
concerned about water, concerned about phosphorus
and the impact on Lake Winnipeg, and that should
form the majority of your review of the industry.

What it cannot be getting bogged down
with is reviewing animal welfare, labour
practices, property values and many other things
that have nothing to do with the environment.

There are many other regulations that govern that.
So, in summary, we welcome the CEC review of the industry. We look forward to working with CEC to arrive at an objective and sound review. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr. Freig. Thank you for your presentation this afternoon.

Next Mr. Gordon Orchard.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you for the opportunity. My name is Gordon Orchard. I farm in Miami in the escarpment here. And, I'm sorry, I don't have a written copy of what I'm about to say.

THE COMMISSIONER: That's fine. We will be transcribing it.

MR. ORCHARD: Part of my concerns stem from farming and also from my years -- I am part of the Deerwood Soil and Water Management Association. This is officially from the Association. But part of my experience comes from sitting on that board for over 20 years and the environmental work that we have done in our watershed and my experiences come from that work taken on my own farm.
Deerwood Soil and Water has been investigating our farming practices and the environment in the Tobacco Creek watershed for over 20 years. Mainly we started out on hydrology. And we have since moved into water quality and the impact our farm practices have on manure, livestock operations, our fertilizer, tillage. We are trying to take the long look at what impact we've had over the long-term water quality of Tobacco Creek, which relates then into water quality in Lake Winnipeg.

And in hearing that this Clean Environment Commission was going to investigate the sustainability of the hog industry, I note that the Brundtland Commission, in their definitions of sustainable development, and their working through that whole issue really emphasizes that environmental indicators are needed in that whole process in order to form any opinion on sustainability of an industry or in the environment. And I really wonder what environmental indicators they have been using and how they have been established and what data they come from.

One thing we have learned in our dual
project over the years is how much we don't know. As we work through our years of data and you try and relate that to a farm practice, you try and model different things. And we find, as we're going along, how much we assume. "We" meaning from the society, from the scientists that are involved in our project, to farmers at our board table, how much we assume we know and how much little we really do know that's factual and how much we have got to learn yet in the process.

And one example, when I went through university and we were taught the good practices of farming, phosphate was a totally immobile element that stays wholly where you put it. And one of the issues we have found, in the last five years of research, is this whole thing of dissolved phosphates. And phosphates are a much more mobile element than we ever gave credit for. And it seems to be coming out of vegetation, that's naturally occurring vegetation we leave on our soil as we farm, coming out of our residues from manure application, to the leaves that fall off the trees.

And I'm really worried that this whole big concern about the water quality in Lake
Winnipeg and phosphates. We don't recognize how much is naturally occurring or might even be a function of our change in our ground cover over the long term.

And the last thing we should be considering in this province is attacking the problem with the wrong data. And I am really worried that might be part of what we are doing here, especially when, I think, if I remember some of the numbers we kicked around, phosphates tagged to the hog industry are one percent of Lake Winnipeg's sources. And yet we are doing nothing with the phosphates that are coming out of all of the municipal and city sewage lagoons that are mainlined into our water streams.

I noticed that the Morden one here, in the advertisement for the expansion of the lagoon, the discharge was dependent on stream flow. And there is no allowance for any of our municipal discharge. It just goes from the thing is full and when the stream is running. And that's exactly the opposite to what we are being told in agriculture that we need to do with our MMP residues. If we lose it, it's a source of pollution. And I wonder why, on the urban side,
which is anywhere from 15 to 25 percent of the lake's phosphorus, it isn't even up for consideration right now.

Another thing that I worry on this whole, looking at the hog industry right now, putting a moratorium on these large operations. They have to do soil testing and a manure management plan. They inject their manure. This is probably state-of-the-art manure handling that as a cattle producer I envy. And I think it is probably one of the safer environmental practices.

And yet if we believe the reason for this review is that this is a bad practice, and it must be if it's not sustainable, then what does it mean for 50 years of extension information that we have received from Manitoba Agriculture and all of our university research and all of the advice that we have been given as farmers on how to handle our manure?

I really am concerned about this issue that if you're going to look at the sustainable practices, then you had better get the whole Extension Department of Manitoba Agriculture to give a real run-through of what's the justification for the practices that we have set
up and run with it to this point, which makes me
c conclude that I think that the Commission Review
of the hog industry is kind of misdirected. And I
w wonder about the politics of it all. But that's
n not the issue, I guess.
I would like to emphasize that the
whole process should be science based. We
absolutely need more research on the sources of
our pollutants in the water. We need to know
where they are coming from. We need to know that
the advice we give agriculture should be science
based as well, so that we know that we are doing
the right thing.
And I guess that's about all I would
like to say. And thanks for your time.
Oh, I guess I will add, there is part
of our project, the WEBS project in Deerwood which
is studying best management practices on a farm
scale. And the data that's going to come out of
that in the next few years I think would be a
really good guide for the Commission to use on how
agriculture practices do actually impact on the
environment, because we're working with long-term
data and very carefully monitoring measured
practice application to results.
And the whole kind of moratorium right now to me is misplaced. If we would have waited a few more years and got more of the science done, maybe that would be a better reason for the moratorium. Thanks.

THE COMMISSIONER: I am just quite intrigued by your last comment about this, what did you call it, a WEBS?

MR. ORCHARD: It's called a WEBS project.

THE COMMISSIONER: WEB?

MR. ORCHARD: WEBS. And I will just give you the background here. Actually, our Deerwood Soil and Water Management Association is considering possibly presenting at your full hearings in March. And we can actually do more of a presentation on that project at that time. But it's a joint Federal/Provincial University of Manitoba project where they are looking at the field farm practices and changes in management practices on a piece of land. And they are collecting all of the run-off that comes off of it and then comparing it to the before and after and trying to see what is the environmental impact of soil on a piece of land or applying manure year to
year on this piece, or whatever farm practice that
is being done. So it is one of six projects all
across Canada. And we have it right at our local
watershed here. And in Manitoba, I think it's the
absolute guideline for giving us some real good
hard information on good practices.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I really
think we should hear more about it. It sounds
quite intriguing. It's the type of thing that we
have been asked to look for and look for
alternative methods as well.

MR. ORCHARD: And going back to my
comment on the environmental indicators, I really
question whether we have got any that are
reliable.

Some of the data out of Lake Winnipeg,
I understand, the water samples aren't even taken
until last year. So you are trying to compare
sample results to watersheds that are so diverse
and so large, with so many different players in
it, that I don't know how you can single out one
industry and say that they are the ones we have
got to go after. And everybody has got a concern
for water quality, but we have got to do this
right.
THE COMMISSIONER: Hopefully we can play a small part in doing it right. Thank you very much, Mr. Orchard.

Ms. Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles?

MR. CORCELLES: Good afternoon. My name is Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles. I live in St. Adolphe. The Kennedy family was a mixed family, farm family for generations in the Westburn area. And my husband's family, the Courcelles family, has been large grain operators, and one of the first intensified livestock operating families in St. Agathe in the R.M. of Richot.

I live one mile north of the Glenlea Research Station, the University of Manitoba Glenlea Research Station. And within a five mile radius we probably have 50 intensive livestock operators, so this is why I am here today.

Dear Chairperson, panelists, ladies and gentlemen, I am here today on behalf of those who do not have a voice or for those that are afraid to use theirs. I speak on behalf of you -- I speak to you on behalf of the water energy, mother nature, the animal kingdom, spirit energy and our future generations in Manitobans.

The very fact that we are holding the
Clean Environment Commission meetings all over this province in hope of finding solutions to help this re-balance of our hog production industry is both exciting, because things are changing, and yet very, very sad because things have gotten so out of control at the same time.

We ask ourselves these questions:

Why do things have to escalate to these red flag drastic measures?

What signs have we been turning our cheeks on?

What state of conditions are our hogs in?

What state of condition is our sacred water in?

Why have we ignored the growing state of stress and uneasiness in our urban and rural communities regarding the increase in hog production, its excess waste and odour and its negative effects onto society?

What does all of this mean for a healthy environmental sustainability?

What does all this mega-sizing mean for our small entrepreneur and our farmer?

What does all of this waste mean for our wildlife and our fish stocks?

Why do these toxic -- what do these toxic gases do to our quality of air, for our birds, our
butterflies and our babies?

Why does all of this cloning, drugging, artificially inseminating, tweaking, mega-sizing, growth hormones, crating, prodding, transporting do to our overall health and safety for the hogs and for the people in our environment?

Is this the kind of meat that we really wish to pass on to our grandchildren?

Is this waste coming off these hogs the kind that is environmentally sustainable for our land, air, water and people?

Are we not just building huge houses of cards with these mega bubble hog operations where the inside environment does not reflect the outside environment at all? Like the scientific biosphere experiment that failed, this too will not last.

Have we not allowed economic gains and increases in production rates overshadow the common sense and overall sustainable health of a meat source for society?

We have killed the pig's immune system. We have allowed mass production to reduce the hog to a chiller thriller experiment where the poor beast has its dignity and respect stripped
from it. Starting at its very inception, to its fast-tracked, drug and force-fed life that has increased its size beyond common sense while, at the same time, reducing its waste. This seems to be reflecting our increase in obesity and colon cancer in our youth and society as a whole.

The bubble experiment failed in the world of science. And I dare to say that these mega barns of bubble-biosphere hog production are failing here as well. We don't have to go very far into Canada or Europe to find out this truth.

Environmental sustainability is all about equality and respect for every part of the whole or else the whole thing will break down. Well, we have broken down here in Manitoba. Our water can no longer take that waste that we are exposing it to. The bubble animal production systems of removing the natural from the animals are systems that have also broken down and are doomed to fail the people and our healthy sustainable future.

The animals need to be returned to their natural ways, in their natural environments, or this accumulation of disease and dis-ease shall spread much further than the signs of distress.
that we are currently experiencing here in
Manitoba, Quebec and Ontario.

What further scoping factors do we
need to look at now to get our hog production
industry back in line with the environmental
sustainability?

1: Use science and other factors to
tell the difference between which meat is safest
and most environmentally sustainable for our
collective future. The meat coming out of the
enclosed bubble hog barns or the meat coming out
of the organic free range pigs? Which way should
we be moving towards in our future and which
production system should we get phased out like
old toxic technology?

2: Test and monitor the surface,
ground and aquifer water surrounding those areas
of intense livestock hog operators and record the
findings to be analyzed by science and used as
barometers of health and sustainability. And fine
the operators accordingly if the water is
contaminated, if not closing down their operations
all together.

3: Set up and enforce strict laws and
regulations to inhibit global, national,
corporate, mutual fund and other investments into livestock hog production that is harmful to the environmental sustainability of Manitoba, and specifically to the water.

4: Phase out all intensified livestock operations out of the flood areas of the province and out of the protected ecological areas, protect the water, wildlife and fauna habitat. No waste spreading of any type in the flooded or protected areas.


6: Regulate and utilize the straw method of raising the animals again, phasing out all other methods as they are not natural or sustainable for the long-term health of the hog or the workers.

7: Eliminate the release of liquid manure into pipes that are put underground and let go of at any time of the year. These hot toxic wastes are carrying far too much deadly active bacteria and drugs to be let go of directly into the ground, and especially near water sources, like we are seeing along the Assiniboine River. They also cause fog patches that are deathly to
the wildlife and to the society. Example number one, the highway between Winnipeg and Portage La Prairie.

8: Study the long-term safety and quality of life that the people who work in the food processing plants are enduring and make the necessary changes to alleviate these physical and mental burdens that mega-sizing the industry has put on them. For the environmental sustainability, we need to make necessary changes to bring back respect, dignity and honour to the workers and to the animals. If you have no one able to work or want to go work in these death factories, then you have no need for the meat and no need for the livestock-hog production and nothing to review because there is nothing in the environment and sustainability has scoped itself out.

9: 13.5 years to receive the essential basic information regarding the livestock-hog industry and the physical environment is not accepted by the people, First Nations, animals, spirit energy, nor by future generations. This is a top priority and mandated already by the Environment Act and the
Sustainability Development Act. 13.5 years is not an acceptable timeframe for any stakeholder. The Department of Conservation is expected to comply much sooner or the hog ban stays on for that long, too.

10: Of course animal welfare shall be included in the scope for as we, the people, read it and understand it, the Minister and leaders want to know if the hogs are environmentally sustainable. How else will we know if we don't look at the animal welfare? Implement surprise spot-checks with Winnipeg Humane Society, Animal Watch, Pork Council and the CEC altogether to verify the varying stages of the animal's life in their different environments and how they are doing. Are the conditions acceptable, sustainable, reasonable, respectful, dignified and humane? Would it pass the test of the approval of our elderly, a kindergarten class, our teenagers, our First Nations people, our health inspectors or the zoo keepers?

11: Ban the gestation stalls and all other stalls. The statement to the CEC that this tight 24/7 hour lockup is good and safe for the sow is absurd. When I was pregnant with our two
girls, I was as big as a sow. And for my own
safety and the safety of my vagina, thank God my
husband did not confine me to a metal crate with
slats for my waste in case I got into a fight with
another pregnant female. This barbaric locking up
of a very intelligent, clean, nesting and
nurturing, two DNA strands away from being a human
being, days are over. If a farmer cannot afford
to offer the pig some more space in a natural
instinctual habitat, with straw to root in and
collect their waste, then that farmer cannot meet
the environmental sustainability standards for our
children's futures.

12: The Clean Environment Commission
would benefit from setting up a 1-800 telephone
number, 24/7 telephone line/answering machine
where the public could phone in and tell their
details of the environmental truths that they
know, but are too afraid and intimidated to show
up at public meetings or hearings too. It is
very, very hard to talk about your family or your
boss or your neighbour, or whoever else these
loved ones are. This number should be well
advertised on your website permanently as the
commissioners of a clean environment. Perhaps you
could also run an e-mail talk-back address, too.

13: Protect the water from being overused and under-paid, as well as polluted from the intensified livestock-hog industry. Water quality monitoring is needed, and effective enforcement of the Environment Act and the Water Protections Act and water tables and aquifers should be monitored as well.

14: Environmental sustainability will only be possible when mega-sizing operators incorporate our original heritage farming techniques such as utilizing straw, family podding and free-ranging in a pig's natural environment, including trees to provide the pig shade and shelter. In our sustainable future, this is the only type of animal production system that shall be allowed. All other systems shall fail and we shall be left to collectively clean up these short-sighted, diseased, water polluting facilities. Just take another -- just look to the other jurisdictions to see if I am telling the truth.

15: Plant tree lines all around livestock operations to help filter the air and the toxins and to provide shelters.
16: Greenhouse gases, what contribution comes from the hog industry, what are they doing to reduce it?

17: Transportation. What is the accident rate of transporting all of these hogs to the market? The Manitoba Public Insurance could help you out with that. And, as well, what is the humane treatment of the hogs in transport?

18: Liability. Will and how will the hog industry, Pork Council, et cetera, be held accountable financially and ethically to the negative effects that can come out of hearings like these under our current laws and regulations or in their actions in the future?

19: Does the Clean Environment Commission or the Department of Conservation of the Manitoba Provincial Government have legal power for accountability and liability over corporate, mutual fund, individual shares and foreign investment into the livestock hog-industry and factory farms when the Provincial and Canadian environmental sustainability is threatened, under stress, abused, or the negative cumulative effects upon society; for example, water quality and environmental health effects.
20: Does the factory farm and intensified livestock operators have liability insurance or indemnity bonds before licensing them?

21: For the Clean Environment Commission to look at restricting, limiting the numbers and types of hog operators that may cause adverse cumulative effects, especially in certain parts of the province; for example, in the flood areas and in the protected areas.

22: If a hog operation is found guilty of an environmental infraction, for example, contaminated wells or creeks, what actions are they responsible for to put into place or restore the environment back into a sustainable future?

23: The Planning and Development Act or the old Bill 33 is inadequate for the current rate of hogs in Manitoba and the approvable process in relation to environmental sustainability. This must be a part of this scoping exercise as well.

24: Take a good close look at the definition of pollutant in the Environment Act as the waste, odour and quality of the meat often
falls under this jurisdiction.

25: Under the Environment Act, "environment" means:

"A: Air, land and water, or;
B: Plant and animal life, including humans. As stated in the Act, the intent of the Act is to develop and maintain an environmental management system in Manitoba which will ensure that the environment is maintained in such a manner as to sustain a high quality of life, including social and economic development, recreation and leisure for this and future generations."

26: Under The Sustainable Development Act, it reads:

"Sustainability means the capacity of a thing, action, activity or process to be maintained indefinitely in a manner consistent with the spirit of the principles and guidelines. 'Sustainable development' means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of
the future generations to meet their
own needs.
'Sustainable yield' means the
harvesting, extraction or use of a
renewable resource at a rate or in an
amount that does not exceed the
growth, regeneration or replacement of
the source."
All issues of concerned citizens fall
under these scopes.
27: Modern-day medicine uses the pig
heart to do heart surgery for humans. This very
fact alone should be our wake-up call to have the
respect and decency to mandate, regulate and
enforce more natural space, fresh air, sun, rain,
snow and wind on their backs, freedom to come and
go, straw and other raw materials for these family
oriented life-giving creatures of God. My
grandparents would be devastated and disgusted at
how these factory farms treat their animals today.
These I.L.O.s are not our heritage and they are
not our sustainable future.
28: The piglets and all pigs
absolutely have to be mandated to have more space,
straw and their natural outdoor-indoor come and go
environment returned back to them. And in a short
time, the society will see their immune system
will toughen up again and the operators shall be
able to phase out the cowardly dependency on the
costly drugs and administration of these
fear-based products. Whose idea was this in the
first place, the drug or the feed companies?
Drugs should be rarely used, just in case of
emergencies, just like you do for yourself.

29: In looking closely at the
environmental sustainability of the hog industry,
society is very concerned about the increasing
signs on how much antibiotics there is in our
water supply and how our bodies, and even our
babies, are becoming immune to the drugs and how
the diseases have super-strength and are immune to
the antibiotics. They are linking it to the food
we eat as well. This is not sustainability.

30: The recent research from the
University of Manitoba's student, Jennifer Magoon,
illustrated that pesticides, insecticides,
herbicides and fungicides are having negative
health effects on the rural residents, including
birth defects, respiratory and eye infections,
also bring up concerns over the ripple effects of
the livestock-hog industry as it relates to our fellow Manitobans. Living in the country could cost you and your baby's health right now. And that's got to stop.

Some short points, to be also included in the scope as they affect Manitoba's environmental sustainability and development are:

A: Animal welfare;
handling and transporting;
barn locations;
insurance and fire safety;
air quality within the barns;
slaughtering and food processing industry;
health and safety for the animals, people, land, air, water and plants;
labour relations and local recruitment difficulties;
property depreciation;
rural and community discord;
urban concerns;
animal-hog and human disease concerns and facts;
gestation crates and crates of any kind have to be banned;
overcrowding of the pigs;
economic sustainability and liability;
antibiotic resistance and residue in the waste,
land, air, water and meat supplies;
greenhouse gases and I.L.O. accountability;
other jurisdictions' knowledge and experiences and
the science coming from the European Union,
Sweden, Florida, Arizona, North Carolina and
Quebec;
the University of Manitoba Glenlea Research
Station findings;
the University of Winnipeg and Brandon's research
on the hogs and Lake Winnipeg and water quality;
the Water Protection Act and the Water Quality
Management Zone regulations;
Health Canada and the Department of Fisheries and
Oceans;
past reports and research done in this province;
moral, ethical, spiritual obligations
responsibilities and laws,
Paylean and other growth factories and the
long-term effects on the people, the pigs and the
environment. Ban it, we have to get back to
natural.
Check out www.meatrix.ca and www.meatrix.com for
more information on the intensified livestock
industry.
Industry priorities such as OlyWest versus Vita Health.

90 percent of the meat is exported at what cost to our sustainable development?

100 percent of the waste stays here.

More humane handling at the time of death and the type of the death for the hogs.

Nuisance odours and their physical effects to all life forms that can smell it.

The second shift at Maple Leaf and the CEC concerns.

The lack of environmental enforcement and education.

Urgent concern over the blood release into the sewer systems and waterways.

Bulrushes in ditches, blue green algae ditches, creeks, streams, rivers and lakes overload.

Boil water advisories.

E. coli warnings.

Draw down on our water tables.

Nuisance odours and quality of life.

Hog industry standards - the honey wagon operators versus socially and environmentally conscious good operators.

Ecological services and funding for farmers, for
example, putting back the wetlands and forests and
studying the water better and closer.
The CEC should follow up in three years.
The First Nation's rights and involvement, input
and notification.
Manure management neglect and enforcement.
Rural community development and harmony.
Small farmer versus factory farmer and
sustainability.
Organic hog producing teachings, research, role
models, education and promotion.
Concern about drought and water sustainability.
Maple Leaf putting the small farmer out of
business.
Keep the ban on until there is proper enforcement
and regulations all over the province.
The NAFTA concerns versus environmental
sustainability.
Human rights and animal rights.
The one percent myth.
Stress related illnesses.
Real estate depreciation.
Hog stigma and reputation.
European farming methods being allowed to be here
in Manitoba, but yet banned in Europe.
And immigration increasing by 10,000 per year in
Manitoba.

And finally, if at all possible, to have at least
one First Nation panelist on the up and coming
meetings to be held.

I thank you very much for your time
and consideration of all of the above-mentioned,
all of the points to the very, very touchy subject
of mass production of hogs in the Province of
Manitoba. Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
Ms. Kennedy Courcelles. I just have one question.
Your item number 23 where you talked about the
Planning and Development Act, or what you called
the old Bill 33, that it's inadequate.

MR. CORCELLES: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is my
understanding that a new Planning Act was
introduced in January of 2006. Are you suggesting
that that is inadequate and we should review the
new Planning Act?

MR. CORCELLES: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Thank
you very much for your presentation.

MR. CORCELLES: You're welcome.
THE COMMISSIONER: And, Mr. Koroluk, do you want to go now or at 3:30 when you were scheduled?

MR. KOROLUK: Now.

THE COMMISSIONER: Okay, Mr. Koroluk.

MR. KOROLUK: Oh, thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have to be sworn in?

THE COMMISSIONER: Not for this, not for these presentations. Just state your name for the record and then proceed with your presentation.

MR. KOROLUK: Okay. I can say anything I want.

I am Glen Koroluk. I work part-time for an organization called Beyond Factory Farming. It's a national coalition that promotes sustainable livestock production.

Since this is a scoping meeting and we're talking about scoping issues, I wanted to first start off about talking about the process that we seem to be heading towards.

And what I brought here today for you is a little guide done by the Organization for Economic and Cooperative Development, OACD. And they have identified ten key principles for
successful information, consultation and active participation of citizens in policy-making.

And I hope that you can refer to this guide on a continual basis because Canada is a member of the OACD and this is quite a comprehensive set of principles. I will go off and list some of the principles.

The first one being commitment, which means leadership and strong commitment to information, consultation and participation in policy-making, and it is needed at all levels from politicians, senior managers and public officials.

And I just want to mention that we are grateful that Minister Struthers has called for this review, and we expect his government to respect the process. However, we are very disappointed that the Minister failed to call for full hearings which would enable the public to thoroughly investigate the hog industry. And in this respect, we suggest that if your panel determines that the Mandate and Terms of Reference given to you by the Minister of Conservation are inadequate to carry out your duty, that the Minister be made aware of this finding in this report.
Another principle is rights. A citizens' right to access information, provide feedback, be consulted and actively participate in policy-making must be firmly grounded in law and policy. Government obligations to respond to citizens when exercising their rights must also be clearly stated.

I want to point out, and you are probably aware of this, that we made a Freedom of Information request last November for basic data and information which the government claims that it has available. This data will give the public and the CEC a clear picture as to how the Department enforces the industry and the nutrients on our land. We have been given notice that it will take 13.5 years to get this information.

We also have other information requests before we move into the next stage of this consultation process, such as water quality data for operations that are required to monitor groundwater, records of complaints from the Farm Practices Protection Board, business risk payouts and environmental program payouts to hog operations in Manitoba, and a list of ingredients contained in the feed.
And, accordingly, we expect a process to be defined which allows us to seek data and information as well as -- as well as giving us the opportunity to present studies from other jurisdictions. And we do have more information requests, and I will provide those in a written final statement before February 2nd.

Another principle is clarity. And objectives for, and limits to, information, consultation and active participation during policy-making should be well-defined from the onset. The respective roles and responsibilities of citizens, in providing input, and governments, in making decisions for which they are accountable, must be clear to all.

Now, as this process hasn't been well defined from the onset, we would expect that this scoping exercise will give us the opportunity to help shape the remainder of the review. We require clarification as to how the public can assist the panel in enlisting "experts", what the criteria is for being an "expert", what that process entails and the time period this process will occur in.

We acknowledge the benefit of
community meetings. However, if we are to discover the "facts" or truth, a process will need to be established so that Participants can be identified and that the powers of the Manitoba Evidence Act are available in the process. We will need to challenge claims, do cross-examination, be able to file motions and call witnesses. These rights are granted to citizens who participate in full hearings.

Another principle is time. And we have heard a lot about time over the last few days. Public consultation and active participation should be undertaken as early in the policy process as possible to allow a great range of policy solutions to emerge and to raise the chances of successful implementation. Adequate time must be available for consultation and participation to be effective. Information is needed at all stages of the policy cycle.

We have, you know, consistently heard from the industry that this review must happen as fast as possible, because if we take adequate time our entire livestock industry in Manitoba will collapse and farming families will be devastated and people will be going out of business.
So we just want to suggest that this process ensures that the required information is made available and that the Panel does not rush its process. And I would even suggest that maybe we should take the amount of time it takes to get a water regulation passed under the Water Protection Act.

Another principle that we would like to see is objectivity, and we have heard a bit about that in the last few days. Information provided by government during policy-making should be objective, complete and accessible. All citizens should have equal treatment when exercising their rights of access to information and participation.

And on top of conducting an objective review, we expect the panel to engage "experts" who are independent of industry and government. This independence will be required, so as not to have the same people within government and industry supply the background information to test its validity. Decision-making should incorporate science. And we place great emphasis on scientific studies that are peer-reviewed. We suggest that your panel look into our academic
community and provide those who can provide
assistance in defining your scientific needs.

Another principle is resources.

Adequate financial, human and technical resources
are needed if public information, consultation and
active participation in policy making are to be
effective. Government officials must have access
to proper skills, guidance and training, as well
as an organizational comfort for their efforts.

I would like to say we are thankful
that the Minister has announced $100,000
participant fund. However, for it to be
effective, adequate time will be required to make
an application and based according to the results
of the scoping exercise. Without knowing the full
scope of the review and issues to address, it will
be difficult for the participants to apply for
funds. We suggest that this scoping exercise
document be available one week after the
February 2nd deadline and that one week be given
to participants to apply for the funds upon its
release.

And we are also suggesting that
Section 6 of the Manitoba Regulation 125/91,
that's the Participant Fund Regulation, will be
used as a guideline in awarding assistance, and those entities who have adequate resources are not eligible for funding.

And we are worried, too, that the required resources will not be available within government departments to assist the review process in providing additional information. So that's an issue that you are going to have to deal with.

Another principle we would like to see instilled is coordination. You know, initiatives to inform and request feedback from and consult citizens should be co-ordinated across government units to enhance government management to ensure policy adherence, avoid duplication and reduce the risk of consultation fatigue in the citizens and organizations.

I will just speak a bit on consultation fatigue. You know, don't be surprised if massive numbers of citizens do not turn out to the upcoming public sessions. Back in 2000, we went through a very similar process whereby citizens were granted 15 minutes to make their case at community sessions. The panel, at that time, also met behind closed doors with
"experts" and a final report was produced. At that time, there were 5.3 million hogs produced in the province. Since the release of the Finding Common Ground report and the development of the Livestock Stewardship Initiative, hog production has nearly doubled to nine million pigs per year and Lake Winnipeg is now in a state of eutrophication.

We have heard about the Planning Act, and that Planning Act needs to be reviewed as it does contain certain elements that deal with manure application and spreading.

Another principle that we would like to see instilled is accountability. Governments have an obligation to account for the use they make of citizen's input received through feedback, public consultation and active participation. Measures to ensure that the policy-making process is open, transparent and amenable to external scrutiny and review are crucial to increasing government accountability overall.

And we are aware that "experts" will be enlisted in this process. We would like to know who the experts are and we would like to have the opportunity to add our own experts to the
list. To make the process transparent, all forms of communication should be sent to the public registry. Closed door meetings should not be encouraged, but if they do happen, minutes must be recorded of their activity. And if letters are addressed to the Panel on points of clarification, common courtesy would dictate that the sender receives a response.

I want to move on to my second part of the presentation, and that's the mandate of the review and really, you know, what we're scoping or what we're going to discuss over the next few months. And we have heard this a couple of times, already, too. And the definition of "environmental sustainability", because that is what we've been given the task to look at is the environmental sustainability of the hog industry. And as it's been mentioned in the Environment Act:

"Environment means air, land, water, plant and animal life, including humans."

The Sustainable Development Act defines:

"Sustainability means the capacity of a thing, action, activity or process to be maintained in a manner
consistent with the spirit of the principles and guidelines."
And that's the principles and guidelines of the Sustainable Development Act.
So, in other words, your review, this review, must be broad and include an analysis of socio-economic issues, health issues and community impact issues associated with hog production.
And the reason why? Well, if we look at the first principle of the Sustainable Development Act, it states that:
"Economic decisions should adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects and that environmental and health initiatives should adequately take into account economic, human, health and social consequences."
Principle number 2 states that:
"The economy, the environment, human health and social well-being should be managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations."
And principle number 3 states that:
"Manitobans should acknowledge
responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being with each being accountable for decisions and actions in the spirit of partnership and open cooperation."

So your Terms of Reference are quite specific in that you do have to do a broad review. And there are other reasons that you should be doing this review. And it's specific to the Term of Reference number 3, which states:

"The CEC investigation should include a review of the contents of the report prepared by Manitoba Conservation entitled "An Examination of the Environmental Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

In the introductory session of this report, we were given an economic status of the benefits of the hog industry in Manitoba. The report also indicates that:

"A comprehensive assessment known as the Livestock Stewardship Initiative took place, as there was a sense that changes to maintain environmental
protection, ensure good husbandry practices and keep rural communities viable and healthy were needed."
So by virtue of introducing these issues in the report, and according to your Terms of Reference, we have the duty to include a review of the Livestock Stewardship Initiative, which includes issues such as environmental protection, good husbandry practices, and healthy viable communities.

And, furthermore, the 40 or so recommendations stemming from the Livestock Stewardship Panel of 2000, which you can see them in the report, must also be independently revisited. The "Finding Common Ground" report is part of the Livestock Stewardship Initiative.

And issues, you know, coming from this report include: Health and safety of workers, animal welfare and husbandry practices, climate change, environmental liability, closure costs, air quality, Farm Practices Protection Guidelines of the Board, health impacts,
rural developments,
and antibiotics.

So your mandate and your Terms of Reference explicitly says that you have to review all of these issues, so you do have a broad scope to work with. And I would find it difficult for you not to take all of this into account because you would have some explaining to do to the Minister of Conservation.

Anyway, that's my report, my oral report. I will provide a more detailed written report by February 2nd, if that's allowable.

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr. Koroluk. Certainly any future comment or further comment is welcome. Thank you very much.

Now, I have nobody else who has identified that he or she wishes to make a presentation this afternoon. Is there anybody in the room who would like to make a presentation?

MR. PETERS: My name is Jack Peters and I have no affiliation. I am just curious to see what is going on, and I made some observation while I was listening. Sorry if they are late.

I have raised hogs. Not on a grand,
grand scale, but I have raised hogs, and I have
also farmed.

I guess in the year 2002, at this AFM
meeting, I kind of had a wake-up call, I thought.
I was walking through the exhibits and a group of
people called The Friends of Lake Winnipeg were
telling me how these farmers were polluting the
land with over-fertilization and causing the algae
growth.

And having just checked the papers
from my -- after my dad passed away, I came across
some old soil test papers from our farm that were
soil tested throughout the years. The first one
was in 1967 and the other was in the year 2002.
And for the same target yield, I needed a little
more fertilizer to have the same crop, a little
more phosphorus. In fact, nitrogen was almost
identical. This land has had a continuous crop
since 1967, and a crop every year. Never had a
crop failure. And it was always fertilized
according to our specs. We basically did soil
test intermittently and soil testing.

But you might wonder, what does that
have to do with hog phosphorus and the idea? I
believe before we do much of anything, I think
agriculture, especially the hog industry, is going to be blamed for a lot of things. A lot of it is hot air that it doesn't really apply to people with our problem. There is a problem with anything. Any time you do something, you take a risk, whether it is raising hogs or raising cattle or putting in a crop of grain, or whatever. There is no such thing as no risk.

And I can tell you that on my hog operation, I used to put in probably 6,000 gallons of my organic fertilizers, I call it, for a period and that was pretty well sufficient to grow a crop. I did need to add on my soil a little additional phosphorus.

But if we're talking of the pollution of Lake Winnipeg, I think there is another issue there. And one of them is lack of maintenance on our drainage and the streams. The municipal drains, the provincial drains, our water is not flowing in our channels. It is flowing beside, so it is back-flooding our ground. And the water standing on the field absorbs the nutrients and this water ends up in the lake at some point. It is just one of the things.

The other thing I would like to say,
you know, I am looking at people as a whole. We are living a whole lot longer than we were a while ago. So, you know, I think we can thank the farmers because, starting at the gate, I think the food quality is much better. And we should look and see what they are doing. But I think we need to also acknowledge that there is some very positive things. And it's not all gloom and doom.

And, you know, the more regulations we make, and I think we hear about some smaller farmers and things, things aren't getting smaller. And the more regulations you make, the bigger the farms have to be. Am I going to spend a day of paperwork for 8,000 pigs or 800 pigs? If I am going to do a month worth of paperwork, am I going to do it for 80 pigs or 8,000? You know, there is a point where the regulations interfere with what you do. And that's all I have to say.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Peters, before you leave the table, thank you for your comments. Just your comment about the lack of maintenance in the municipal drains, I didn't quite follow that part, partly because I was writing a note. Are you saying that the water flows out of the drains and into the fields and picks up whatever and then
back into the drains?

MR. PETERS: Yes. We have back-flooding there, instead of flowing into our drains. We don't need to increase the capacity of our drains. We just need them to work.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Well, thank you very much. Is there anybody else who would like to make some comments this afternoon?

MS. CLAYTON: I have just prepared this. I was out of the province and got home early this morning. I checked the dates of this and saw it was today, so I was driving all night from B.C. and here I am back close to home.

My name is Liz Clayton. And I bought 32-acres of land at Northwest 23-7-AW with my partner, Henry Chatelaine, about a year and a half ago. Now, that is just west of the Boyne River, in the watershed area of the Tiger Hills, a little bit south of Rathwell, south of St. Claude. It's a beautiful, beautiful area. And it is hard not to love it with the rolling hills and all of the trees. And there is lot of bush left standing in that area.

So the Boyne is a wetland. It's in the drainage region that flows into the Boyne
River, but part of the Stephenfield watershed region.

And our intention -- sorry, I'm nervous. Our intention is to design and build an innovative northern-style greenhouse and ultimately supply the Winnipeg marketplace with as much fresh green stuff as we can ship to that urban market nearby, sustainably, using bio-diesel as a way of getting our product to market.

With that in mind, we have joined with a group of 12 friends to create a marketing co-op to help us and other small producers get our products to marketplace. We realize a lot of distribution systems are hooked into large scale. And it's the small producers and the family farms, mixed farms, that are sometimes having problems marketing their stuff. So that's what we're doing there. And we absolutely love living in the country.

But I was somewhat dismayed to find out, when reading the Treherne Times, January 2nd edition, that at the council meeting on R.M. of South Norfolk, December 12th, there was a public hearing on conditional use at 1:30 in the afternoon, which was attended by a Barry Watson
from Bio Pork Enterprises Ltd. and Manny Thomas, Development Officer for South Central Planning District and Gary Pluman, Manitoba Agriculture Technical Review Committee. So those three individuals attended the public hearing. And the council has approved a conditional use permit as required by the R.M. of South Norfolk for Northeast 15-7-8WFM. I don't know if this is affected by the moratorium or not.

I did not know that there was going to be a public hearing. I don't know how citizens or neighbours or other stakeholders who live near places are notified about public hearings. Had I known, I would have been there. And I would have been able to hear a little bit more about this proposed Bio Pork enterprise.

Because I wasn't, I called the council and asked to see the minutes. And the minutes is basically what was in the paper. The conditional use was approved.

But it didn't answer any of my questions as to the nature of the organization, how big it was going to be, the plans for odour control, shelter belts and those sorts of things. So if this, indeed, is a panel for suggestions, I
suggest that one of the issues you should look at is proper notification in advance of stakeholders of any such proposed projects in their area so that we can make plans to attend the public hearings and find out what will immediately impact us, particularly as we live downstream. We have a wetland flowing right through the middle of our property on the Boyne which, in the springtime, is a real flood zone. So we are down water. And we are also directly downwind with the prevailing winds. And this is an adjacent section to us.

So we're a little bit upset about that. And why is that? I don't know. I like my neighbour. I have already met him. And John seems like a really reasonable guy. He is in his fifties. He has farmed beef, about 90 head, in the area for 30 years. And what I'm thinking is he seems a little tired. He is in his mid-fifties. He had an ankle injury. He has to retire out of his business one day. And he is probably looking at what he has invested as a beef farmer, and gone through BSE, and the aftermath of that. He is probably wondering what kind of legacy, what kind of cash he can get at the end of all of this, being probably in debt. So perhaps
he is looking at the hog thing as being his big bailout at this point, a way of making some money before he ends his farming days.

Now, I can see the government having all kinds of initiatives for farmers. As I pick up our weekly paper, there are meetings for green zones, for alternative farming methods. I hear of inter-farming, where you graze sheep in with your cows, which is less of a problem on the land. But somehow he has made this decision to go with the pork. And that's making it very uncomfortable because he knows now that we know. We know what he is doing. We want to be friends and neighbours, but it's causing a lot of discomfort and distress at this point.

And I believe that's the same kind of thing that was mentioned earlier, that it is really a big unmeasurable impact of this industry on all of rural Manitoba. Wherever there are barns, there are neighbours, there are cities and towns nearby. So that's one of the things that I think is very difficult to measure.

On the other hand, we have the hog industry, which finds that it is easy to measure the cost impacts of this business out of province.
There are full-time paid employees and lobbyists. And they have a very good way of measuring this impact positively on the economy.

I am concerned with some of the intangibles. How do you measure what does not happen, like people not moving to a community or not starting their own small sustainable farm operations because they cannot live beside, downwind or downstream from an intensive livestock operation? Like, there are also hidden costs of de-population eroding our tax bases. And this will continue if this is what rural Manitoba life looks like and smells like and tastes like.

What about the cost of those concerned with this, like my time and money and gas to get here today to, you know, just to make a few notes to you people on this panel?

So despite my attempts to find land away from hog barns in the first place, I find that this is probably going to be set up outside my door.

And so with that in mind, I think that the panel should be very concerned with the issue of water testing. I see on this form here, that is the standard water testing form for Manitoba,
that the agriculture water analysis part where you
measure manure storage facility monitoring wells
in one year, year one, and other subsequent years,
you send a one or two litre pop bottle for
analysis. I am wondering about the security on
that. I have no idea. Who makes sure that a pop
bottle full of water from a monitoring well comes
from that well that says it is? I don't see that
there is a security connection there. I might be
mistaken, but I think that this is something worth
looking at.

How do you measure the amount of
manure in a run-off situation? I don't understand
why the application is allowed during the winter
months still. And I understand it is. And I
smell it is and I see that it's happening. How
can liquid manure, applied on top of the snow on
frozen ground, not run off into our ditches and
then wetlands and then streams and then to our
Stephenfield water supply, which supplies drinking
water for 10,000 people?

How do you measure the intangible
quality of the air? This is a difficult one. In
Winnipeg last summer there was a day where I
stepped out on my front step. And I still had a
city residence. And I thought: What dog did what under my front step? I looked under, nothing. I walked around. The smell did not dissipate. I listened to the CBC that afternoon, what was the stink in the air? We promise we will get the answers for you tomorrow, they said. So I listened. What can smell so absolutely rank? And the answer was: We don't know the answer. We don't know what had happened that day and why our air smelled so badly. But, like air, it passed and people forget.

The same thing happened in New York City. There was a huge stink. And, you know, it smelled like S-H-I-T, actually, according to some of the reports. Despite all of the combined resources of all of the people in that area, they could not figure out where the smell came from. I think our methods of measuring air quality are lacking far behind some of our other measurement tools which we use.

And further to odour, I understand Notre Dame is now surrounded in every area by intensive livestock operations. And that after years of back and forth, a farmer was finally ordered to cover the tank, a huge storage tank.
It was deemed a noxious odour, finally. It stinks and it's been covered. But it took him four months to put straw on top of that. How do the rights of two farmers outweigh the health and comfort of an entire community? Like, how does that balance out? So that's been rectified for now in Notre Dame.

But I heard from a friend that one of the doctors in Notre Dame says that she will leave if there is one more barn put in that area. We have a problem attracting physicians to local areas. I don't think Notre Dame would like to lose a doctor on this for the sake of two farmers.

I think it's a question sometimes of democracy. And I don't deny people the right to earn a living in your own backyard. What you do in your own backyard, if it doesn't leak or leach in my backyard, if it's safe and it's proven safe, I am totally all right with that. And I just wish that everyone would -- well, I hope the farmers here are taking notes and have some ideas based on what they have heard today.

So I am living in the country now and I will stick it out and see how it goes. But thank you very much for taking the time to give me
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
Ms. Clayton.

We have nobody else scheduled to speak
this afternoon. We will take a short break. We
have some refreshments over on the counter over
here. I invite you to partake. And if anybody
else would like to make a presentation this
afternoon, make a few comments, please let Cathy,
at the back of the room, know or speak to me
during the break. We will come back in about 15
minutes. Thank you.

(PROCEEDING RECESSED AT 3:00 AND RESUMED AT 3:20)

THE COMMISSIONER: Could I have
everyone's attention? You don't need to sit down.
We haven't had anyone else express a wish to speak
this afternoon. And so we will sort of informally
adjourn, and by that I mean that the panel will
stay here until 5:00. If anybody else shows up
and wants to make a presentation, we will
reconvene at that time. But until that happens,
we're adjourned. So continue to converse and
visit and enjoy the refreshments.

(Proceedings recessed at 3:22
and reconvened at 7:00)
THE COMMISSIONER: Good evening. We will come to order now. We only have two people registered to make presentations this evening. They are both with us now, so we may as well proceed. The first is Gerald Enns. Come up to this table here.

MR. ENNS: Did you get copies?

THE COMMISSIONER: We have one copy, yes.

MR. ENNS: Sorry about that.

THE COMMISSIONER: That's okay. They can look over my shoulder and then we can make copies in the office.

MR. ENNS: My name is Gerald Enns. I'm affiliated with the Green Party of Manitoba. I am currently the treasurer of the party and would like to speak on behalf of the membership that we have.

The expansion of the hog industry raises a lot of concerns for all Manitobans. The huge economic force of the industry must be considered along with social and environmental concerns. Economists and environmentalists don't always understand each other, but there is a lot
of cross-over. Economists have always considered externalities, or other factors that affect the rate of return on investments; and environmentalists, on the other hand, see the human economy as a subset of the earth's economy.

The point of this, the point I'm trying to make, is economic concerns and environmental concerns are tightly linked, especially in the case of the hog industry. The socio-economic impacts of the hog industry are imminent. And to focus solely on the environmental ones would belittle the main issues. There is huge overlap. And I would like to present several of them, starting with the consideration of the most important and then proceeding on to issues that are of decreasing importance.

I would like to just give a brief interlude before I make recommendations. So at any given time in Manitoba, there are approximately 380,000 sows. I believe that sow stalls are cruel. The European Union will phase them out by 2013. And we recommend that sow stalls in Manitoba be phased out by 2017. We have many more sows and farmers who are currently using
sow stalls.

Pigs need to exercise mobility,
rummage and socialize, like any other animal.
Innovative farmers in Manitoba, and in other
countries, are successfully using practical
alternatives to sow stalls. They have proven
benefits in manure handling, dry as opposed to
wet, and improved workplace health and safety.

We recommend the Clean Environment
Commission pursue a full review of the feasibility
of group housing systems for the hog industry as
it pertains to economics, labour and the
environment. This will impact all further
considerations.

Secondly, I would like to talk about
the economic benefits for rural communities are an
illusion. The viability and strength of rural
communities cannot be addressed through the hog
industry alone, but through a comprehensive plan
for agriculture. A comprehensive plan does not
exist. And because of the rapid growth of the hog
industry in the past 20 years, its impact on rural
Manitoba must be assessed. Manitoba leads Canada
in the hog industry due to the growth of pig
production from one million in 1980 to 8.6 million
in 2006. This has been accompanied with a trend to grow feed crops instead of grain and oil seeds. The hog industry accounts for $1 billion in exports, which is honestly no small amount, and a huge consideration in planning the livelihoods of many people in Manitoba.

To the credit of farmers, a seven fold increase in efficiency, due to modern farming practices, has increased yields. We see more pigs per farm. Farm consolidation is not a new trend and has been happening since the 1940s. But recent statistics show that the rate at which farms are disappearing is increasing. And the fastest rate being a 13 percent decrease from 1996 to 2001, and that was just over 21,000 farms in Manitoba.

And the statistics I have cited here are the most easily interpreted statistics that are available on government websites to anybody with access to the internet. So these are not statistics from farm consulting groups. These are the statistics that are the most widely used.

The benefits to farmers in the hog industry need to be examined. Hog prices have declined slowly and steadily from 2001. From 2005
to 2006 alone, the cost of feed has increased from $48 to $63 per pig. The pork consumption in Canada remains steady and the growth in industry has been due to exports. Hog farmers receive one of the lowest percent in retail prices among livestock producers.

The price of food in Canada has not increased with an increase in wages. Consumers spend less of their disposable income, 10 percent, on food today. Farm income, in general, has decreased slightly from 1971 to 2006. In that same time, there has been a seven fold increase in farm expenses. Outstanding farm debt has increased from 3.1 billion in 1998 to 5.5 billion in 2005.

And here's where I make an interpretive twist. If the trend of increasing debt that has accompanied so-called economic growth at a rate of 175 percent in the seven years, between 1998 and 2005, the next seven years of economic growth will result in an outstanding farm debt of $7.3 billion.

Farmers have the potential to be the best stewards of the land. And, in fact, in much of Manitoba, they are the stewards of the land.
And the fewer people in rural Manitoba, the more difficult it is to have strong communities. Any industry that takes people away from the land cannot be seen as a benefit to rural communities. Family farms employ more people and retain profits in the community.

I recommend the Clean Environment Commission review the effect the abolition of single desk selling and increased vertical integration of corporations into the hog industry has had on the ability of farmers and communities to realize their profits due to increased productivity.

Thirdly, I would like to discuss the impact of the hog industry on water consumption. Hog barns use approximately 100 litres of water per day per sow. Processing facilities use vast amounts of water. And I don't have any statistics on that. Old, unregulated liquid manure storage tanks are immediate threats to local water resources. You've heard of the spills in MacGregor in 2002, four million litres of pig manure slurry. And others have been cited as well, to which I don't have any confirmation of sources, so I just won't make any more mention of
Large lagoons of hog manure slurry are a hazard to local wells and surface water. Manure spreading and increasing nutrient run-off to surface water is an increasing trend, as has been noted by the regulations that have been breached that already resulted in minimal penalties.

I recommend the Clean Environment Commission investigate the ability of governments to allocate water licences based on site specific soil and hydrologic data. I recommend that the Clean Environment Commission investigate the impact and feasibility of dry manure management systems and potential advantages to protecting water from contamination.

In addition to the recommendations, I have listed a few just general questions. Is there sufficient groundwater and soil data to make informed decisions? Does the government have sufficient resources to investigate old storage tanks before 1998? Do current regulations and enforcement capabilities effectively protect Manitoba's drinking water?

My fourth consideration is labour in
the barn and in the slaughterhouse. Manitoba's hog production has outpaced the growth of slaughter and processing facilities. One of the biggest challenges to the slaughter and production industries is the availability of a large labour pool. A demand for large labour pool makes cities the optimum site for slaughter and processing facilities. The full cost to the public in subsidies, tax breaks and infrastructure accommodations for large developments make the hog industry the exception. Hog barn workers are at risk. Hog barn workers specifically are at risk for developing lung and breathing disorders.

I recommend the Clean Environment Commission consider the social impact, high infrastructure needs, and demand for unskilled labour that slaughtering and processing facilities have on their environments.

I recommend the Clean Environment Commission review the medical literature on barn workers' risk of developing asthma and bronchial infections.

The fifth consideration -- how am I doing by time, by the way?

THE COMMISSIONER: You've got five
MR. ENNS: Okay. I will just make it as quick as I can.

5: Manitoba's hog industry's impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The greenhouse gas emissions from the hog industry must be assessed within the context of Canada's commitments to meeting target sets at the Kyoto Conference. Greenhouse gas emissions result from hog production mostly from transportation and, to some extent, manure. As a result of Manitoba's large export market, the needs of -- the impact from greenhouse emissions from truck driving needs to be assessed.

At any given time, there are approximately three times as many hogs as there are people in Manitoba in 2006. Hogs produce about four times as much waste as humans. And as a result, four times as much methane, which is approximately 20 times more effective in trapping heat than CO2.

We recommend the Clean Environment Commission investigate greenhouse gas emissions that result from the transportation of hogs, feed, manure and other significant activities.
We recommend the Clean Environment Commission investigate greenhouse gas emissions that result from manure.

And we recommend that the Clean Environment Commission investigate the impact and feasibility of anaerobic manure digestion and the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate energy.

The sixth consideration is the issue of manure application. Night soil, and manure application is a viable and old practice. Manure spreading becomes a problem when too much is applied on not enough land or sensitive soil. Manitoba has 11 million-acres of cropland, of which combined livestock manure requires approximately 10 percent. Hog manure could fertilize an estimated 6 percent of the land.

So the issue is there is no shortage of land, but the question is whether Manitoba's nutrient management system can be run effectively. Nutrient management systems must account for phosphorus run-off, nitrogen uptake by crops and the site specific soil analysis.

Sandy soils may not be suitable for manure application. The southeast and southwest
regions of Manitoba show the highest concentration of hog manure piles. Overapplication of manure threaten groundwater and nearby surface water.

We recommend the Clean Environment Commission investigate the government's capacity to obtain site specific data as it pertains to the application of manure, as well as the ability of the government to monitor and enforce regulations on manure spreading.

We recommend the Clean Environment Commission investigate the effectiveness of dry manure systems as viable alternatives.

I would like to quickly bring up one last consideration, and that is that hog farming requires a large amount of antibiotics. Hogs require between 100 to 1,000 times the dosage of antibiotics during raising than humans. And that increased use of antibiotics may result in increased amounts of drug-resistant bacteria.

We recommend that the Clean Environment Commission take a precautionary approach in assessing the risks posed to human contact of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in food, water and air.

In conclusion, any real investigation
into the expansion of the hog, further expansion of the hog industry, raises a lot of questions that have been unanswered for several years. And as of most recently, Ruth Pryzner from Rivers, Manitoba, who really had a lot of questions about the expansion of the hog industry, she had so many questions she had the fax at Manitoba Conservation going for two days. And Manitoba's Conservation response to that was: Well, it will take us 13.5 years to answer your questions. In light of the 13.5 years it will take to respond to questions, we ask that the moratorium on hog expansion should be kept in place for another 13.5 years. That's all. Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Mr. Enns.

Mr. Martin Unrau.

MR. UNRAU: Good evening. My name is Martin Unrau. I'm the president of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association. I would like to thank the members of the Clean Environment Commission for the opportunity to provide you with some input into this process.

The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association represents 10,000-plus producers
involved in various aspects of the beef cattle industry, including the cow/calf, backgrounding and finishing sectors. The cattle industry is worth in excess of $500 million annually to the province's economy.

The Manitoba cattle producers, like other livestock producers, know that the way they treat their soil and water resources will affect their operations. Cattle require access to high quality water supplies, so producers are keenly interested in protecting this resource. Producers also want to maintain or improve the quality of their soil on their farms, as it is an integral part to the long-term sustainability of their operations.

Cattle producers live on the very same landscape in which we raise our cattle. We want to ensure that our families have safe access to clean water supplies and a healthy environment. We recognize that the way we run our operations also affect our neighbours, so we take steps to minimize the potential impacts, such as dust or odour.

Each and every person in this room enjoys access to high quality, inexpensive food
thanks in part to the work of Manitoba farms. It must be noted that the process of raising livestock or producing crops is heavily regulated in Manitoba. It is also important to note that the costs of adhering to these environmental regulations are borne almost exclusively by farm families, and not by consumers. This is a significant social responsibility being borne by the farming community.

For example, there are numerous environmental acts and regulations that govern the way livestock producers run their operations. These rules relate to manure management, nutrient application levels, mortality management, soil and water monitoring, setbacks from water bodies, and the siting of livestock operations, just to name a few.

In addition to providing day-to-day care for their cattle or livestock, producers spend considerable time interpreting the regulations and applying them to their farms. It is a complex task, but producers do it because they recognize the importance of protecting the environment for future generations.

And I would just like to add that
farming communities, the farming communities,
while it's a business community, it is also a
lifestyle. When you buy a business in town or buy
a Pizza Hut or a restaurant, you look at the
resale value down the road. Whereas farming,
cattlemen farmers, hog operators, many of them
want to pass this down to their sons or grandsons,
so it's a multi-generational operation.

It's probably fair to say that the
vast majority of Manitobans do not live their
lives under such a high degree of public scrutiny
or regulation. For example, does the average
citizen know the proper agronomic rate at which to
apply lawn fertilizers or to apply herbicides to
weeds on their property? Farmers must know this.
Yet, all too often, fingers are pointed at the
farm community when environmental concerns arise.
Being visible on the landscape makes the industry
a target.

All Manitobans have a shared
responsibility to protect the environment. These
range from the production practices used by
manufacturers and processors, to the ways in which
Manitobans use water resources recreationally, and
the steps municipal and large city governments
take to ensure they are not discharging raw sewage into our waterways. I simply want to ask this question: How thoroughly are these activities scrutinized?

The cattle producers employ many beneficial management practices to protect and to enhance the environment. For example, over the years, the Manitoba Cattle Producers, and individual producers, have worked with groups such as Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, the Riparian Health Council, the Farm Stewardship Association, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, and others, on a wide variety of projects to protect our environment.

Manitoba's cattle industry also recognizes the importance of research when it comes to advancing the industry and protecting the environment. We are currently involved in research projects in both the University of Manitoba and the Brandon Research Centre related to cattle, cropping and forage production.

As an example, we are currently involved in a three-year research project called Solid Cattle Manure as a Nutrient Source in Annual and Forage Cropping Systems. Currently there is
very little scientific data about solid beef
manure in Manitoba. But regulations are being
developed that affect how producers manage manure.

This valuable research project is
examining a number of topics, including
characterizing the manure management practices
used on Manitoba cattle operations; examining the
agronomic and environmental availability of
nutrients in solid cattle manure as influenced by
factors such as crop type, soil type, soil
fertility and application rate; and, ensuring
optimum utilization of solid manure as a nutrient
source for crop production, while at the same time
preserving soil and water quality.

We would strongly encourage the
Commission members to speak to local researchers,
such as Dr. Don Flaten, at the University of
Manitoba, and others, about important projects
such as these. Their work will greatly expand the
base of knowledge about all livestock production
and its effects on the local environment.

The MCPA recognizes that the
Provincial Government has assigned the Clean
Environment Commission is a very serious task. We
would like to make some recommendations to you as
you move on to the next stage of your duties.

The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association strongly believes that science, and not emotion, must form the basis of your work.

Over the course of these hearings, the Commission will receive many suggestions and undoubtedly hear a lot of strong opinions about how Manitoba's livestock industry should be managed. We ask that sound science be the basis for assessing the merits of the information presented to you at these hearings. As well, the information that you seek out from other jurisdictions and sources must also be driven by science, with emotion taken out of the equation. Try to find research that will be relevant to this unique Manitoba landscape.

In a similar vein, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association asks that the Commission adhere to the Terms of Reference that have been provided to it by the government, that is, assessing the environmental aspects of the industry being reviewed. This should not be allowed to turn into a debate about the philosophy of livestock or hog production in Manitoba.

We ask that the Commission conduct its work thoroughly, using a fair and balanced
approach to the issues presented to it. The MCPA also recognizes that this will be a time-consuming process.

However, we would like to caution that the longer this review process takes, the greater the uncertainty this will create for Manitoba's farmers and the agri-business communities. The pause on the hog industry is raising many questions about Manitoba's business climate, both for existing stakeholders and for potential investors. The ripple effects will be felt far beyond the hog industry, as people question whether Manitoba is the right place to do business. It is the government's responsibility to make policy decisions based on sound science, not as a reaction to public perceptions about certain industries.

Farming is an extremely challenging and unpredictable industry, as evidenced by the experiences of the beef industry as we deal with the ongoing effects of the BSE crisis. The MCPA would strongly encourage the Commission to move through this process within as reasonable a timeframe as possible, while still addressing the tasks at hand.
Manitoba's cattle industry remains committed to protecting the environment for future generations. We ask only that all Manitobans do the same.

Once again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide the Clean Environment Commission with some input into this scoping process. Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Mr. Unrau.

Is there anyone else who wishes to make any comments here this evening? Going once, twice. Well, I guess that brings today's meetings to a close. I want to thank those of who you came out this evening, and others of you that came out this afternoon as well, for a very interesting day.

We will go from here. This is the last of our scoping meetings. We will assess what we've heard over the three days of our meetings. And then we will try to digest it in a bit of a discussion paper, but particularly to identify specifically some broad areas in which we will be conducting further meetings through March and April.
So if anybody else has anything to add right now, it's your last chance. Thank you very much. We're adjourned.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:35)
CERTIFICATE

LISA REID, duly appointed Official Examiner in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at the time and place hereinbefore stated.

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Lisa Reid