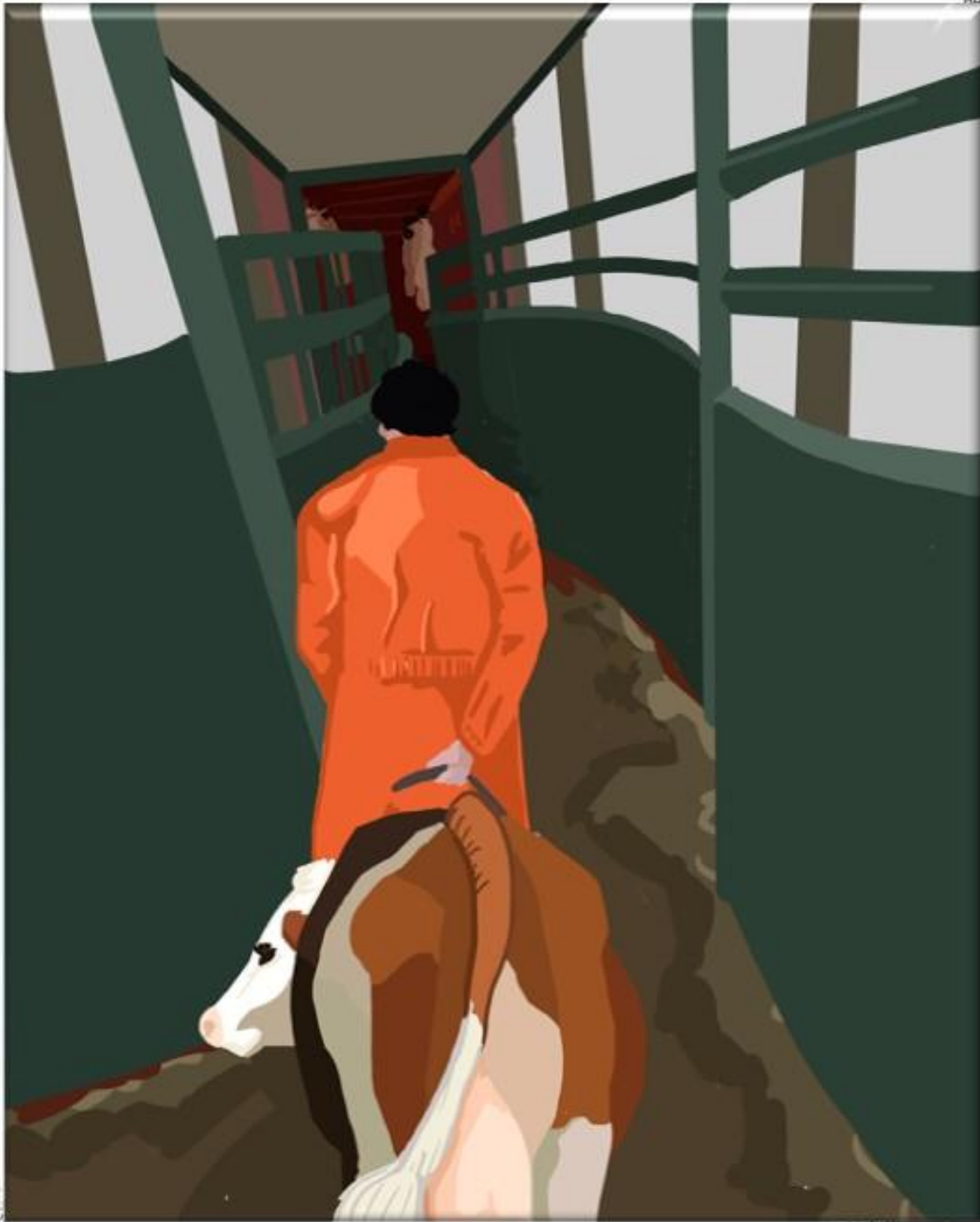


# BLOODY BAD BUSINESS



REPORT ON THE JOYCEVILLE INSTITUTION ABATTOIR



# Bloody **Bad** Business

## Report on the Joyceville Institution abattoir

August 31, 2021

Written by:

Calvin Neufeld  
Founder  
Evolve Our Prison Farms

Reviewed by:

Kevin Belanger  
Former Inmate Committee Chairman (2009-2011 & 2018-2021)  
Joyceville Medium Unit JAU & Joyceville Minimum Unit JIMSU

Cover art:

“The Red Mile” by Jamie Neufeld (2021)

*Many terms are applied to incarcerated persons, including “prisoners,” “inmates,” and “offenders.” For brevity, this report frequently uses “prisoners” and “inmates” interchangeably. While no terms are without controversy, our experience consulting with incarcerated persons suggests that these terms are commonly used in self-reference and are generally acceptable.*

*Unless noted otherwise, all references in this report are from internal CSC documents obtained by Evolve Our Prison Farms through Access to Information requests. Most of the information in this report is being made public for the first time.*

© Evolve Our Prison Farms 2021

**Preferred citation:** Neufeld, C. (2021, August 31). *Bloody Bad Business: Report on the Joyceville Institution abattoir*. Evolve Our Prison Farms. [www.evolveourprisonfarms.ca](http://www.evolveourprisonfarms.ca)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

### *Human Rights Violations*

- i. Associating underpaid prison labour with the private sector*
- ii. “Inmates cannot quit a job”*
- iii. Comparison: Guelph Correctional abattoir*

### *Legal Violations*

- i. “Money laundering and drug related activity”*
- ii. Tobacco smuggling*

### *Institutional Violations*

- i. Allowing inmates convicted of knife offences*
- ii. Rushing psychological assessments to “meet financial targets”*
- iii. Discontinuing psychological assessments “due to liability concerns”*
- iv. Prisoners working unsupervised*

### *Regulatory Violations*

- i. Questionable inspection practices*
- ii. Non-compliance with Federal Wastewater and Halocarbon Regulations*
- iii. Improper disposal of blood*
- iv. Operating without a contract*

### *Contractual Violations*

- i. Legacy of contract breaches and repeated infractions*
- ii. Misuse of CSC property and ignoring protocol*
- iii. Undue expense and stress on the institution*
- iv. CSC has attempted to terminate contract since at least 1997*
- v. “It’s Wallace Beef or bust”*

### *Ethical Violations*

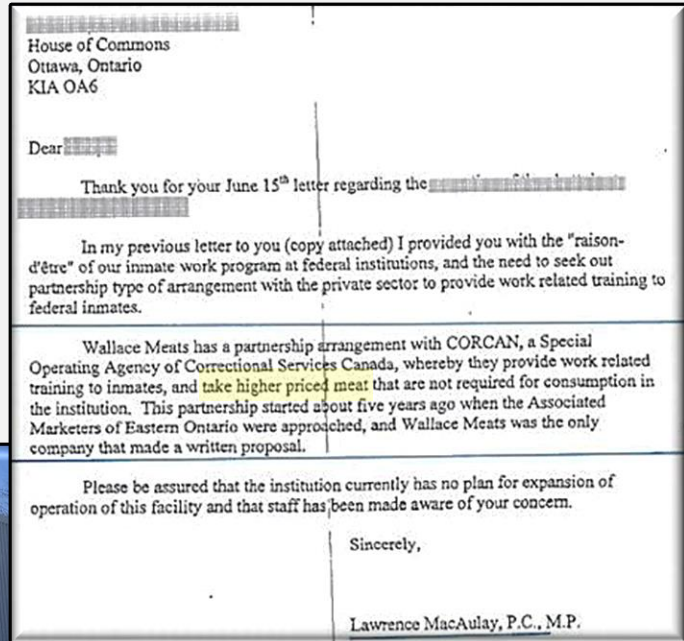
- i. Dangerous work, psychological impacts, and emotional desensitization*
- ii. Troubling testimonies and Indigenous perspectives*
- iii. Industry capitalizing on prison labour*
- iv. Feeding mink fur trade*

## CONCLUSION

# INTRODUCTION

Joyceville Institution is the site of the last remaining prison abattoir in Canada.<sup>i</sup> Prior to the closures of federally funded prison farms in Canada (2009-2011), there were other prison abattoirs that processed animals to produce meat for prison food service, as well as commercial sale of the “higher priced meat.”

After the prison farm closures, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) introduced its Food Service Modernization initiative in 2014, centralizing all food production under a heavily criticized “cook-chill” model.<sup>ii</sup> Prison abattoirs no longer produced meat for service into prisons. All were phased out except the Joyceville abattoir, which shifted to a fully commercial enterprise.



The abattoir at Joyceville Institution is owned by CSC. It was built in 1963 when Pittsburgh Institution (now amalgamated as Joyceville

Minimum) was established as the “Joyceville Farm Annex.”<sup>iii</sup>

From 1963-1995, the abattoir was operated by prison staff and CORCAN, the agency responsible for federal prison work programs; in 1995, CSC introduced a public-private partnership to lower the operating costs of the abattoir and generate additional revenue.<sup>iv</sup> CSC leased the abattoir to a private business, Wallace Beef, to act as the operator.<sup>v</sup> The relationship between CSC and Wallace Beef is the longest standing public-private partnership in Canadian correctional history.<sup>vi</sup>

Although the abattoir has been in operation for nearly 60 years, this report provides a review of the problems associated with the current 26-year partnership between CSC and Wallace Beef, as catalogued here in highlights from nearly 1000 pages of documents obtained by Evolve Our Prison Farms through Access to Information.

## *Understanding prison labour in Canada*

Prisoners in Canada are not legally classified as employees. They are not permitted to unionize or quit their jobs (though they may appeal for transfer to another job placement). Wages received are not considered payment for employment but rather incentive to participate in programming related to job skills training.



The maximum payment a federal prisoner can receive per day is \$6.90 for full-time work (8 hours), a rate set in 1981 based on 15% of minimum wage at the time (this rate has been frozen ever since). Only a small minority of prisoners (fewer than 10%) receive this Level A pay rate. All prisoners earn less than \$1.00 per hour before 30% administrative deductions.<sup>vii</sup>

In 2012, CSC discontinued “incentive pay” which provided prisoners with an additional \$0.50-\$2.30 per hour while working in CORCAN industries, including the abattoir.<sup>viii</sup> There is only one remaining incentive exception: work assignments in the Joyceville abattoir pay \$3.00 per hour.

PP01				
Offender FPS	Offender Name	Hours	Rate (\$3.00)	Total owed to Offender
		77.50	\$ 3.00	\$ 232.50
		71.75	\$ 3.00	\$ 215.25
		68.50	\$ 3.00	\$ 205.50
				\$ 653.25

Although CORCAN pays inmates \$3.00 per hour for abattoir work, CSC invoices Wallace Beef at minimum wage (\$12.88) minus a training fee (\$4.52) per offender hour worked. CSC’s revenue also includes an annual leasing fee (currently \$61,245.00) and utilities and property taxes (\$70,962.00). Some versions of the contract also have CSC receiving \$8.00 per animal processed.

PP01					
Offender FPS	Offender Name	Hours	Rate(Minimum wage)	Training Fee	Total Owed from Wallace Beef
		77.50	\$ 12.88	\$ 4.52	\$ 648.06
		71.75	\$ 12.88	\$ 4.52	\$ 599.97
		68.50	\$ 12.88	\$ 4.52	\$ 572.66
Amount to Invoice Wallace Beef					
		217.75	\$ 12.88	\$ 4.52	\$ 1,820.39

- k) A CORCAN staff member to work in the abattoir and to attend the Program Board to assess each Offender's skills and abilities for employment in the abattoir. CORCAN will identify and make eligible a target number of 10 offenders for employment.
- l) Contractor will be allowed access to the Canadian Switchboard Network or Government leased services for government business, and access to commercial services for Contractor's business. The Contractor is to provide and pay for its own phone and fax service.
- 3) CONSIDERATION AND PAYMENT
- a) The Contractor shall pay CORCAN \$35,000.00 per annum for the use of the facility;
  - b) a per annum offender labour fee based on 10,800 hours at the current minimum wage rate set by the Province of Ontario;
  - c) \$8.00 per animal processed at the abattoir;

# VIOLATIONS

## Human Rights Violations

### *i. Associating underpaid prison labour with the private sector*

According to the United Nations International Labour Organization (UN ILO), prison labour may only be associated with the private sector if it meets specific conditions including voluntariness and freedom from coercion or fear of penalty, as well as working conditions and wages equivalent to free workers. If these conditions are not met, it is classified as forced labour and a violation of human rights.<sup>ix</sup>

The Joyceville abattoir is owned by CSC and licensed to a private company Wallace Beef, which operates a for-profit commercial enterprise employing inmates who are paid \$3.00 per hour. Participation in prison work programs is a condition of inmates' progress towards parole, and inmates are not permitted to quit a job.

All other violations aside, the fundamental conditions of CSC's partnership with Wallace Beef constitutes a violation of human rights and a form of forced labour that would be deemed criminal by the UN ILO.

### *ii. "Inmates cannot quit a job"*

—Original Message—  
From: MacNair Alex (ONT)  
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2002 10:17 AM  
To: Thomas Barry (ONT)  
Cc: Snyder Paul (ONT); Fairley Ron (ONT); Fieldhouse Ken (ONT)  
Subject: Shammear

Barry

I have yet to receive a suspension notice on the above inmate from the abattoir

The CD is clear I am to receive written notification within 24 hours of the supervisor suspending an inmate

I think it has been over 2 weeks now and the inmate has yet to be dealt with at the PB

If the inmate puts in a grievance he will win and I will have to pay him backpay

I cannot see the inmate at the PB until he gets the suspension notice Also the suspension notice must clearly indicate why he was suspended

can you provide this documentation asap to ken today

also remind Bruce the following

**inmates cannot quit a job**

If Bruce suspends he is to notify my office immediately as well as security  
written suspension notice to be delivered to my office within 24 hours of the suspension

If Bruce needs any help with how to fill out forms etc I am sure Ken is willing to assist him

can you email me when this is done

thanks

alex

iii. *Comparison: Guelph Correctional abattoir*

By **JIM ROBINSON**  
Star staff writer

**GUELPH**  
You've got to admit it sounds bizarre.

Fifty inmates—or more—at Guelph Correctional Centre are being offered to private industry as slaughterhouse workers. Their job will be to kill thousands of animals in the centre's own abattoir, cut them into pieces and pack them for public sale under some company's brand name.

They'll be paid the going wage.

If the thought of a room filled with knife-wielding, meat-cutting convicts makes you uneasy, that feeling is just one hurdle the province's new prison industrial program must clear.

Will rival slaughterhouses object to a competitor using convict labor? Will packing-house unions oppose such work? Will taxpayers object to inmates earning more money than they themselves may earn? A lot of questions remain unanswered.

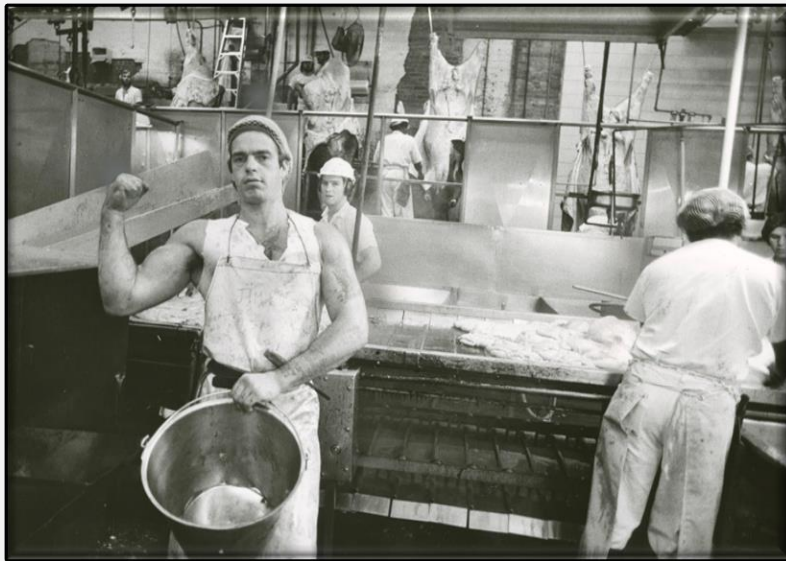
From the 1970s to the early 1990s, an abattoir operated on the grounds of the provincial Guelph Correctional Centre, employing inmates in partnership with private companies Essex Packers and Better Beef Limited.

In this case, inmates worked alongside free workers and earned equal wages. It also set a historical precedent when the employees (inmates and civilians together) successfully unionized in 1977, although no other attempts to unionize prison labour have been successful in Canada.<sup>x</sup>

Unlike the Joyceville abattoir, the Guelph abattoir met the conditions set by the UN ILO for private sector use of prison labour. Still, the program was fraught with difficulty as the provincial government was criticized for “undue meddling in the free market.”<sup>xi</sup>

There were also complaints about prisoners taking jobs from free workers and earning higher wages than

many free workers.<sup>xii</sup> Legitimate questions were also raised about employing inmates in abattoir work, using knives, hooks, and electric torches to slaughter, hang, bleed out and butcher animals.



“An inmate at Guelph Correctional Centre shows off the strength he uses to pry apart jaws of steer skulls at work at Better Beef Ltd., a private packing firm operating on the grounds of the reformatory.” Photo Pat Brennan 1982

are empty. Ellis says it's an average herd for the once-a-week Tuesday hog killing. About 25 cattle will come in on Tuesday morning and another 30 to 35 will be butchered on Wednesday.

We pass the narrow, steep-sided steel runways through which the animals will be driven one at a time to the polished steel kill box. A hog stands in it with its feet close together while a two-pronged “electric torch” is held to its head, sending 400 volts through its brain.

Then the stunned hog is hoisted on a chain with a hook. An electrically-driven overhead conveyor takes it to the blood bay where, still hanging, its throat is cut with a knife.

### Boiling water

After it has bled, it goes into a scalding tank where boiling water cleans the carcass.

Superintendent Scott Keane, who took charge of the Guelph centre 18 months ago, tells us later he doesn't like visiting the abattoir. He says he thinks he has heard the hogs still making sounds when they go into the scalding tank.

Cattle are killed differently, Ellis says. They're stunned by firing a bolt four inches long and three-eighths of an inch thick into their heads. Then they're conveyed to the blood bay and their heads are removed with an electric saw.



toir there," says John Pahapill, the self-confident 46-year-old mechanical engineer hired in February to head the project:

"It's a relatively large investment and it's relatively well-equipped compared to some of the other industrial facilities we have. And it is very, very under-utilized. It is producing a product that is very much in demand in Canada and there is an acute shortage of experienced workers in the industry."

The ministry has advertised its plan to about 30 meat processors in the province who are licensed by the federal Department of Agriculture, says Pahapill. A formal call for tenders is being prepared.

"The industry would provide supervision and management and on-the-job training," he says. "We, of course, would provide careful pre-screening of inmates."

"There is a bit of risk involved, of course," Pahapill conceded.

"The inmates will have to be very, very carefully picked."

Correctional staff – who admitted that they did not like entering the abattoir – addressed concerns about employing prisoners in slaughter work by admitting "there is risk involved" and "the inmates will have to be very, very carefully picked."

By contrast, at the Joyceville abattoir, documents show that correctional staff were under pressure to rush psychological assessments of inmates assigned to the abattoir in order to "meet financial targets" (see **Institutional Violations Rushing psychological assessments to "meet financial targets"**).

Later, CSC staff discovered that psychological assessments had been discontinued altogether after CSC psychologists "allegedly" refused to continue conducting psychological assessments for the purposes of putting prisoners to work in the abattoir (see **Institutional Violations Discontinuing psychological assessments "due to liability concerns"**).

Flippantly, it is stated in CSC correspondence that "given the inmates we have had down there, I'd say not much consideration of crime."

**From:** Dwyer Tanya (ONT)  
**Sent:** July 26, 2016 1:46 PM  
**To:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: Screening of Abattoir Inmate Workers

They are cleared by the SIO but given the inmates we have had down there, I'd say not much consideration of crime.

Tanya Dwyer  
A/Manager, Programs  
Joyceville Institution  
Minimum Security  
(613) 536-6372

---

**From:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 26, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** Dwyer Tanya (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: Screening of Abattoir Inmate Workers

Thanks. As they are butchering meats is there any consideration given to their criminal history?

Lorrie



## Legal Violations

### i. "Money laundering and drug related activity"

Subject:	Temporary Closure of the Abattoir – Pittsburgh Institution
Prepared by:	Ron Fairley, Deputy Warden, Pittsburgh Institution
Date:	October 7, 2003

In recent weeks information from inmate sources has come to light which raise concerns about various inappropriate activities taking place in the abattoir at Pittsburgh Institution. These allegations range from improper slaughtering and meat handling practices, to money laundering and drug related activity to the general business relationship between the private operator of the abattoir and CSC through CORCAN.

In October 2003, the Joyceville abattoir was closed after inmates reported "inappropriate activities."

Allegations ranged "from improper slaughtering and meat handling practices, to money laundering and drug related activity."

Investigations were conducted by the Ontario Provincial Police, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and CSC's "Pen Squad" investigative unit, resulting in a month-long closure followed by a tentative "temporary agreement" between CSC and Wallace Beef moving forward.

Documents reveal that CSC was aware of drug trafficking issues long before inmates reported it.

<b>From:</b>	Clark Janet (ONT)
<b>Sent:</b>	Thursday, January 02, 2003 1:54 PM
<b>To:</b>	CR-ONT-PI-Records
<b>Subject:</b>	CR 8040-8 FW: Areas of Concern/Security Issues

-----Original Message-----

<b>From:</b>	Snyder Paul (ONT)
<b>Sent:</b>	Thursday, January 02, 2003 1:49 PM
<b>To:</b>	FN-ONT-RHQ-DC; FN-ONT-RHQ-ADC-Operations
<b>Cc:</b>	Bannon Bud (ONT); Burelle Marc (ONT); FN-ONT-PI-DW
<b>Subject:</b>	FW: Areas of Concern/Security Issues

Nancy and Lou  
I am forwarding the message below and attachment for your information. We have had some discussions and some planning has taken place to improve the security in the PI abattoir.  
To date the approved telephone interception has not revealed anything significant which would be evidence of the larger issue of drug trafficking so we have terminated that assignment. There was some information which is helpful from these calls and we will be acting on that but I believe the measures mentioned below, and in the attachment will address many of the issues we have previously discussed.  
I will keep you informed.  
Paul

-----Original Message-----

<b>From:</b>	Snyder Paul (ONT)
<b>Sent:</b>	Thursday, January 02, 2003 1:41 PM
<b>To:</b>	Anson Pat (ONT); McGlynn Howard (ONT)
<b>Cc:</b>	FN-ONT-PI-DW; Burelle Marc (ONT); FN-ONT-PI-AWMS; FN-ONT-PI-AWCP; Elkins Mike (ONT)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Areas of Concern/Security Issues

Pat  
Thanks for a good start toward ensuring we have an operation with procedures in place to better ensure security and safety in the abattoir.  
As we discussed Monday, Howard McGlynn is agreeing to be the constant contact Correctional Supervisor in reviewing security procedures and giving advice on change. A meeting with he, you and Bruce should be undertaken once you and Howard agree on this plan.  
I would review the use of a shadow board in the office area to improve security in addition to your suggestions.  
Also, within the next couple of weeks I will convene a mtg. to discuss the possible reduction or elimination of the practice of inmate regularly accessing the abattoir to purchase meat. It is my belief that this is dramatically complicating security and introducing a new means of inmate commerce.  
Thanks very much for this work and please contact Howard to finalize a review of the proposed measures.  
Paul

ii. *Tobacco smuggling*

According to prisoners at Joyceville Institution, the smuggling of contraband via the abattoir has been happening for years.

“Guys working there might make three bucks an hour doing the work,” says Kevin Belanger, former chairman of the Joyceville Inmate Committee, “but they can make \$500 a day bringing in bales of tobacco.”

“Lots of guys don’t last a day or even an hour on the job. They can’t do it. They come to the Inmate Committee asking for help to get them transferred to another job.”

Belanger added that some inmates who lasted long on the job were the ones making money on the side.

Prisoners have witnessed Wallace Beef staff being escorted off grounds by CSC security due to involvement in contraband smuggling.<sup>xiii</sup>

“I can say it happened twice over the past three years,” says Belanger. “They both make a lot of money, the staff and the inmate. It’s all about money. It leads to a lot of trouble. Someone who is hooked on it will do almost anything. This is not a road to go down. The Wallace Beef staff were escorted off the property, never to return again, and the inmates are sent to a higher security immediately by CSC.”

Complaints over security issues with Wallace Beef staff have been highlighted in internal CSC communications for decades.

**From:** Fischer Detlef (ONT)

**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2014 11:24 AM

**To:** Wong Lincoln (ONT)

**Cc:** Edwards Scott (ONT); Garrow Lynn (NHQ-AC); Haigh Mary (ONT); Oddie Lorrie (ONT)

**Subject:** FW: Abattoir Agreement and Training Program

Good morning Lincoln, my comments below.

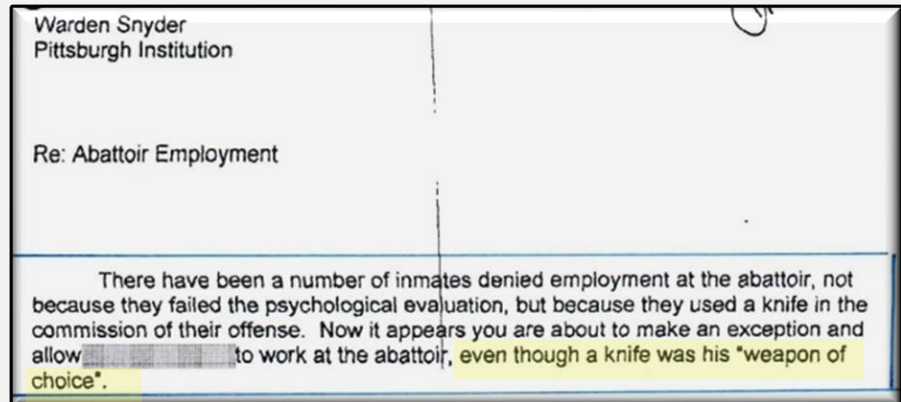
1. Based on what I have read in the attachment and meetings we CORCAN have had with Bruce Wallace, I believe Bruce is referring to PWGSC and the selling price of the meat. I recall he mentioned that several times he [REDACTED]
2. Years ago Bruce [REDACTED] Over the years there has been increased security around the abattoir due to CSC’s Drug Interdiction Policy. Within this past year there has been at heightened security interest in the Abattoir as a result of the clustering due to the habits & practice of the Medium security CX officers experience and mentality. Basically there is to be no unnecessary vehicle traffic or visitors to the Abattoir. Additionally, every time a Farmer does come to the Institution, they report to the security office (as they should) and wait for Bruce himself or his staff come to escort the truck and trailer to the Abattoir compound. [REDACTED] In previous years the Framers just pulled in and unloaded. This obviously is a cost of doing business within the Institution environment that is not experienced in non-correctional locations.

## Institutional Violations

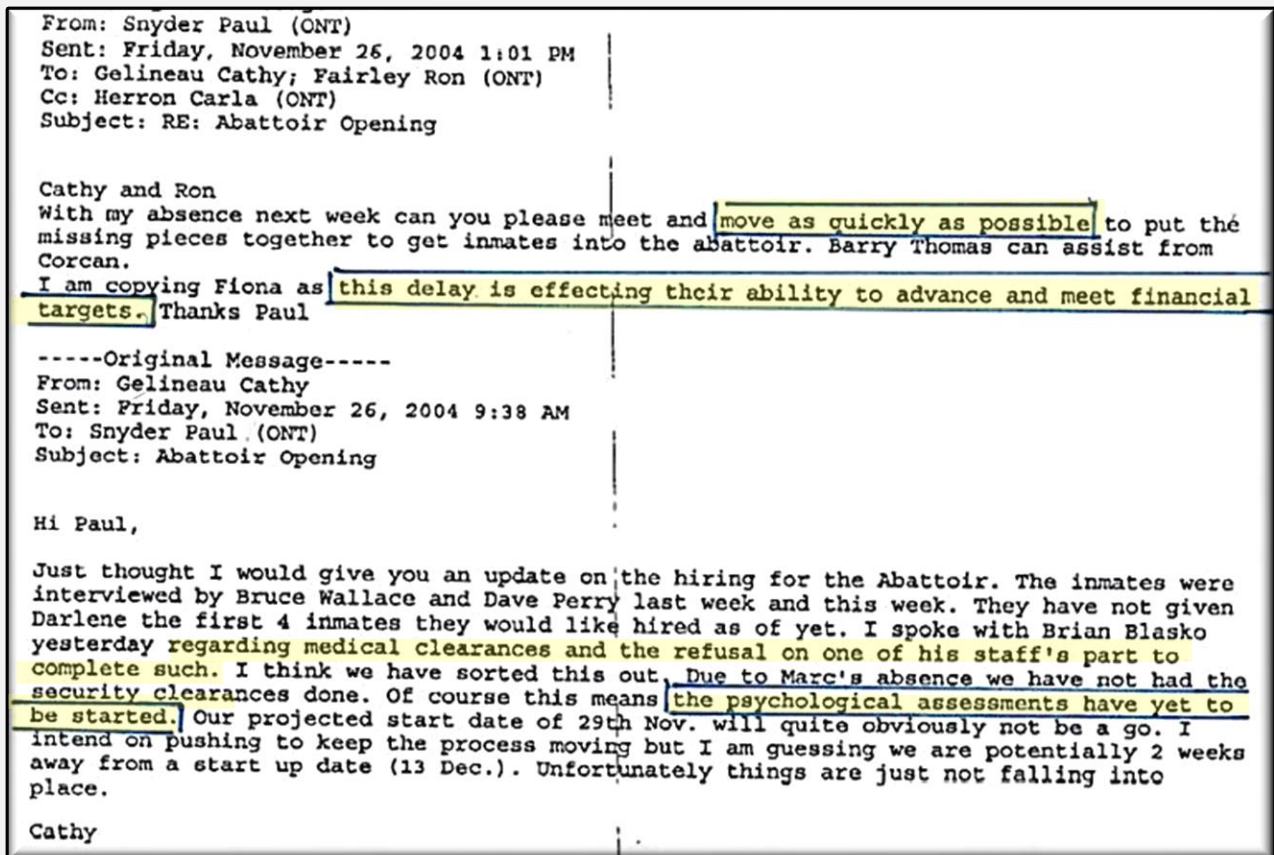
### i. Allowing inmates convicted of knife offences

Typical operations in the Joyceville abattoir involve Wallace Beef employees using a bolt gun to stun the animals, after which prisoners use knives to bleed out and butcher the animals.<sup>xiv</sup>

CSC's written policies require careful screening of inmates working in abattoirs, yet there is no available record of this screening having been conducted, and there is evidence that CSC has disregarded protocol in order to allow inmates convicted of knife offences and other violent crimes to work in the Joyceville abattoir.



### ii. Rushing psychological assessments to "meet financial targets"





Note to Psychology: Program Board is held every Thursday at 1300 hours. Generally applicants to the abattoir are new arrivals to PI and often they submit their applications on Monday when they receive their orientation. In such cases it is hoped that psychology will be able to complete a case review prior to 1300 hours on Thursday of the same week so offenders can be placed without delay. Your assistance in this would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Ann Ewing  
A/AWCP  
Pittsburgh Institution

iii. *Discontinuing psychological assessments “due to liability concerns”*

**From:** Montgomery Michael (ONT)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 3:57 PM  
**To:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Subject:** FW: Previous Agreement on Abattoir Complaint under Canada Labour Code

Hi Lorrie

Here is the concerns I had in 2014. I looked and there are other agreed upon recommendations that are also not being followed that are mentioned in the 127 below. I just found out that psychology has not screened inmates in years. Allegedly they refused to due to liability concerns but it is in their contract.

iv. *Prisoners working unsupervised*

**From:** Gascon Therese (ONT)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2001 2:08 PM  
**To:** Bolden Charlie (ONT)  
**Cc:** King Mike (ONT); CR-ONT-PI-Records; Foley Donna (ONT)  
**Subject:** schedule at the Abattoir

Charlie,

There was a short discussion at the morning meeting re inmates going to the abattoir at all hours to clean with no supervision. Could you clarify what is the schedule. Is it really necessary for inmates to go there when there is no supervision? I do not like it and would like if possible that we do no allow it. Please let me know.

Thank you.

Thérèse Gascon  
Warden  
Pittsburgh Institution  
(613) 536-6354

**From:** Bolden Charlie (ONT)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2001 4:07 PM  
**To:** Gascon Therese (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: schedule at the Abattoir

Therese

The abattoir has had a cleaning crew come back to the abattoir after the [REDACTED] count, for the last five to seven years because the daily work is not complete until after [REDACTED] hrs. There is usually two inmates that are authorized by us to do the cleaning as we must met government inspection standards to ship out food grade meats out of our facility. The inmates that work after the [REDACTED] count are back in for the following count. These two inmates also work on the weekend to do additional cleaning that is required. The inmates only have access to the work areas as the freezers, coolers and tools (knives) etc. are all locked up with only Bruce Wallace and his staff having access to these. If this was to cease we would have to look to more outside contract work to perform this duty. Any questios please let me know.



## Regulatory Violations

### i. Questionable inspection practices

As discussed in **Legal Violations**, the Joyceville abattoir was temporarily closed in October and November 2003, following investigations into meat safety and various illegal activities.

This closure occurred only a few weeks after OMAF inspectors had given Wallace Beef an “A” audit rating, according to the 2004 *Report of the Meat Regulatory and Inspection Review* conducted by the Hon. Roland J. Haines.<sup>xv</sup>

Offender allegations received with respect to inappropriate slaughtering and packaging processes at CORCAN Abattoir

Warden closes abattoir after consultation with RHQ and NHQ given specificity of allegations and issues related to meat safety

Concern for public safety leads to immediate CSC contact with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF)

Warden also initiates immediate contact with [redacted] and the Ontario Provincial Police

OMAF gave Wallace Beef a grade of 82% on its compliance rating for the year ending March 31, 2001 and “A” audit ratings for the years ending March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003. The last annual audit was completed within three weeks of the closure of the plant. An “A” rating is given to plants which are “meeting regulatory requirements”<sup>6</sup>.

While I am not in a position to say how prevalent illegal activity is, I was told by law enforcement bodies, regulators and a range of stakeholders that illegal slaughter and the sale of uninspected meat is a real problem in the province of Ontario.

Correctional Service of Canada. The abattoir conducted custom slaughter for local farmers, sold meat to the public from a retail counter on the premises and also sold its meat to local butchers, institutions and restaurants.

On October 7, 2003, the Director of the Food Inspection Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) provisionally suspended the licence of Wallace Beef Inc. The suspension followed a report that an unidentified inmate had made allegations of questionable practices at the abattoir. The media reported that the plant was alleged to have sold ground meat containing meat from dead animals, sold uninspected meat and had labelled meat as *halal* which had not been slaughtered according to Islamic custom.

The licence of Wallace Beef Inc. was subsequently reinstated on November 9, 2003.<sup>3</sup>

#### 1.5 Meat Inspectors

Following these events, the media raised questions about the effectiveness of the current regulatory system and meat safety became an issue during the election campaign in the fall of 2003. Although the focus was on the

Unsuspecting consumers have no idea of the risks they may be taking in the pursuit of inexpensive meat.

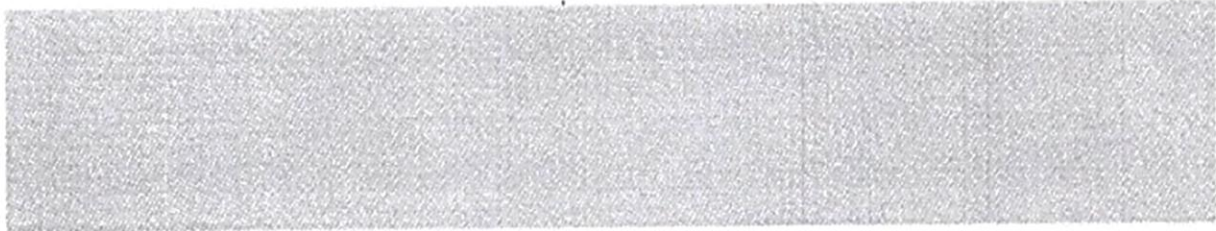
This report raises concerns about the quality of inspections and the widespread problem of illegal activities and improper slaughter in Ontario abattoirs, including Wallace Beef.

It highlights the danger to “unsuspecting consumers” who “have no idea of the risks they may be taking in pursuit of inexpensive meat.”

The Joyceville abattoir services some 350 farms throughout a broad geographic area, including farms that sell “local” and “organic” meats directly to consumers and restaurants in the Kingston region.<sup>xvi</sup>

ii. *Non-compliance with Federal Wastewater and Halocarbon Regulations*

As the agreement gets amended to reflect the correct dates, I would like to request that the clauses cited below are amended to address the site's previously identified concerns related to effluent entering the Wastewater Treatment Plant. As well, the licensee responsibilities should reflect the requirement to submit records and forms to the site to ensure compliance with the Federal Wastewater Regulations and Halocarbon Regulations.



Could we please discuss the changes we would like to see.

Thank you!  
Corinna

authority as legally exists and no further, hereby grants leave and licence, subject to termination as hereinafter provided, to the Licensee to use and occupy for business purposes, for a period of one (1) year from the October 01, 2017 until the September 30, 2016, the abattoir (PP46),

- 5.2.5 Remove and dispose of effluent from the floor pit, in accordance with legislative policy, as required.
- 5.2.6 Maintain and repair all equipment used in the operation of the abattoir, including the refrigeration system.

iii. *Improper disposal of blood*

For years Wallace Beef was improperly disposing abattoir blood and effluent into the prison's water treatment plant, jeopardizing the health and safety of prisoners and prison staff, and compromising water treatment infrastructure.

**From:** Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 08, 2014 4:45 PM  
**To:** Shepherd Dave (ONT); Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Cc:** Graves Don (ONT); Oddie John (ONT)  
**Subject:** CR 590-09: problems at the abattoir--JI min  
**Importance:** High

Hi Dave,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention! It is understood that under no circumstances is there to be any blood going to the sewage treatment plant via the sewer system. This needs to be urgently communicated to the abattoir operator, as Thursday may be a kill day. The abattoir can only be permitted to operate if a solution is found that fully protects the plant.

Corinna

**From:** Oddie John (ONT)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2014 11:09 AM  
**To:** Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT); Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Cc:** Shepherd Dave (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: Wallace Beef Invoices

Thanks Corinna . Lorrie we will need to see similar information for September and October as this seems to be when the observations were noted by both staff and inmate .also is the vacuum tank not being used i would recommend that the www operators maintain a log as to when wash water from the kill floor is fed into the plant again i would think this would be done on a regular bases rather than fill the tank full and discharge all at once into the plant . can someone explain why the killing of lambs would cause an increase in the presence of blood in the waste steam or did we all just fall of the turnip truck and will accept any excuse .. jk oddie

In addition to years of this form of improper blood disposal, inmates at Joyceville Institution continue to report further improper blood disposal practices.

Since 2020 or earlier, inmates at Joyceville have observed CSC staff using a farm tractor to pick up the blood tanks from the abattoir approximately twice weekly and spraying the blood over the fields surrounding the institution.

“It happens every Thursday or Friday for sure, sometimes more often each week,” says Kevin Belanger. “Thursdays are kill days at Wallace Beef.”

According to Belanger, the blood is being sprayed in proximity to ecologically sensitive waterways behind Joyceville Institution. “We call them the lower fields, they are located behind the complex on the road that leads down to the Rideau river.” Inmates have also complained of smell and pests.

After receiving this information, Evolve Our Prison Farms filed a complaint in June 2021 with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), requesting an investigation.

OMAFRA indicated that spraying blood on fields is not common practice but it can be done if proper protocols are in place and approval has been given to apply blood to fields as a composting technique.

Francois Malette, OMAFRA’s Area Meat Inspection Manager, contacted the veterinarian responsible for inspections at the abattoir who indicated that he never issued any approval for this form of blood disposal. “There is no protocol in place at the provincial level. At the federal level, it’s unknown, and unlikely.” Mr. Malette recommended reporting this to provincial and federal ministries of environment since OMAFRA’s jurisdiction only covers what happens within the boundaries of the abattoir itself. “As soon as the blood leaves the abattoir, it’s not under OMAFRA’s jurisdiction.”<sup>xvii</sup>

Mr. Malette noted that this is a unique scenario. It is unclear what authority would be responsible since any abattoir operating in Ontario would be under provincial jurisdiction, yet this abattoir is owned by a federal agency and is located on federal land. It is a unique situation in Ontario and Canada.



In July 2021, Evolve Our Prison Farms filed complaints with provincial and federal environmental ministries, requesting investigation into ongoing improper blood disposal at the Joyceville abattoir.

On August 20 2021, Sarah Dick of the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, responded with a statement indicating that approval was in place for the application of non-agricultural source material (blood) onto the prison fields. We asked when that approval had been put in place. At the time of publication, no response has been received.

**From:** Calvin Neufeld <info@calvinneufeld.com>  
**Sent:** August 20, 2021 5:46 PM  
**To:** 'Dick, Sarah (MECP)' <Sarah.Dick@ontario.ca>  
**Cc:** 'Sacilotto, Roberto (MECP)' <Roberto.Sacilotto@ontario.ca>; 'Harris, Jon (MECP)' <Jon.Harris2@ontario.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Joyceville abattoir

Hi Sarah,

Thank you very much for following up and getting back to me. Much appreciated. Can you tell me when the approval was put in place for the application of non-agricultural source material onto the farm fields?

Calvin

**From:** Dick, Sarah (MECP) <Sarah.Dick@ontario.ca>  
**Sent:** August 20, 2021 4:06 PM  
**To:** Calvin Neufeld <info@calvinneufeld.com>  
**Cc:** Sacilotto, Roberto (MECP) <Roberto.Sacilotto@ontario.ca>; Harris, Jon (MECP) <Jon.Harris2@ontario.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Joyceville abattoir

Hello Calvin,

I've had a chance to speak with Catherine at CSC.

The ministry will be following up to ensure that provincial requirements are being adhered to (i.e: proper disposal of blood/washwater) at the abattoir. That said, I have spoken with my colleague Jon, who is the agricultural officer, and there is an approval in place for the application of non-agricultural source material onto the farm fields.

Regards,  
Sarah

**Sarah Dick**  
Senior Environmental Officer - Kingston District  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks

*iv. Operating without a contract*

**From:** Lightstone Mike (ONT)  
**Sent:** July 6, 2016 12:35 PM  
**To:** Boyce Cathy (ONT)  
**Cc:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Subject:** FW: Abbattoir 286  
**Attachments:** Wallace Beef Licence Agreement 01Oct14-30Sep15.pdf; Abbattoir 286.doc

Hi Cathy,

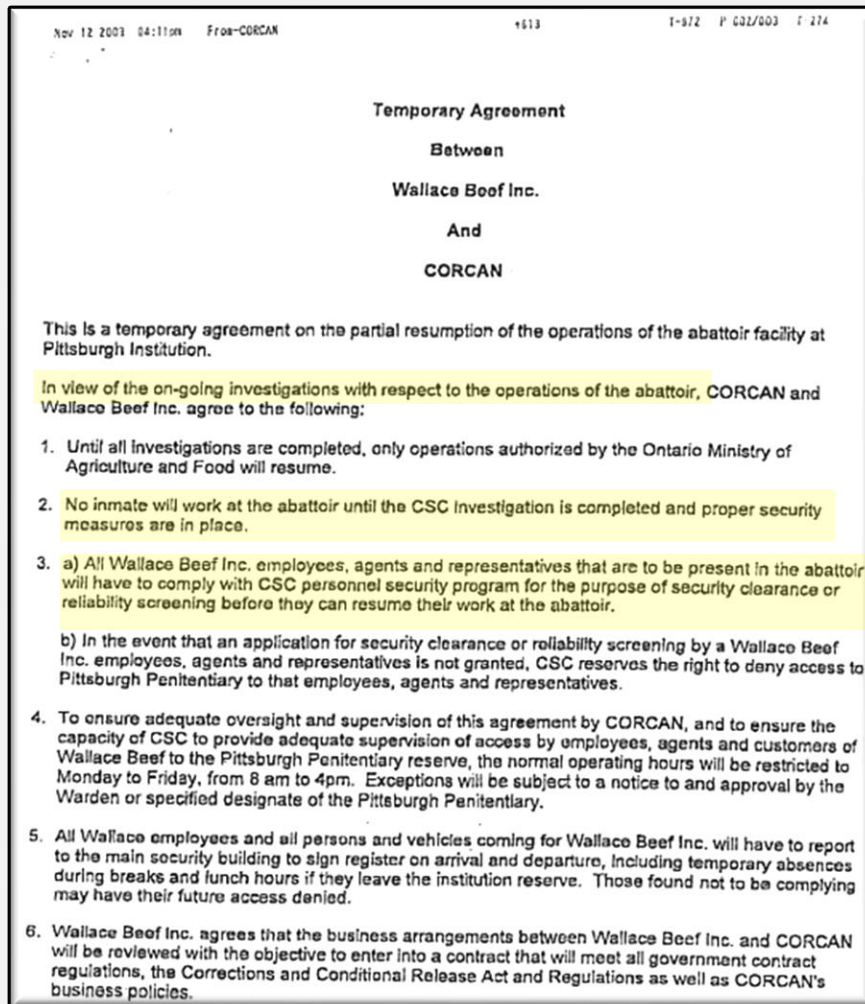
Looks like we are operating without a contract. Who do we contact to see where this is at?

Mike



## Contractual Violations

### i. Legacy of contract breaches and repeated infractions



Wallace Beef has been in repeated violation of contract conditions since the partnership with CSC began in 1995.

Even after the serious issues that prompted the 2003 closure of the abattoir, CSC reintroduced contracts that demonstrate a high level of concern and distrust in their partnership with Wallace Beef.

CSC continuously revised contract conditions and inserted stronger language regarding the imperative to adhere to regulations and contractual obligations. Still, contract violations continue to occur and CSC staff repeatedly complain that problems with Wallace Beef have “been going on for years.”

Examples of broken contractual conditions include, but are not limited to:

- X Wallace Beef must adhere to institutional security standards and protocols, comply with all government contract regulations, and comply with CORCAN's business policies
- X Wallace Beef must comply with all federal, provincial, and municipal laws, by-laws and regulations pertaining to the lands and premises
- X Wallace Beef must provide training to a minimum of 10 offenders at a time (reduced in subsequent contracts to eight, then six, then four, then two, and there were periods when no inmates were employed, leading correctional staff to question “Why are we subsidizing a private company when they aren't employing inmates”)
- X Wallace Beef must supervise offenders
- X Wallace Beef is responsible for disposing all blood and effluent offsite
- X Wallace Beef must pay monthly rent on schedule or the License Agreement shall “terminate immediately”

## 2) SCOPE OF WORK

Abattoir Licensee will be responsible for:

- a) providing hands-on training to six offenders involved in the slaughter and processing of livestock;

- **Wallace Beef staff members will supervise and instruct offenders in accordance with accepted OMAFRA standards.**

It should be noted that we haven't had any reportable incidents since we started this system as opposed to 10-12 yearly before.

It works well and now the abattoir operators are

Their contract needs to be changed to reflect the amount of blood we take away

Why are we subsidizing a private company when they aren't employing inmates.

**From:** Shepherd Dave (ONT)  
**Sent:** October 14, 2014 8:20 AM  
**To:** Oddie John (ONT); Oddie Lorrie (ONT); Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT)  
**Cc:** Bailey Mathew (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: Wallace Beef Invoices

I spoke with another abattoir operator, the blood (if it is being picked up) should be a separate entry, as they are charged different amounts for different things.

It would appear from these invoices that **WE are processed the majority of the blood**

It would be good if someone could talk to other abattoirs or the MOE and find out what are standard practises

**From:** Oddie John (ONT)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2014 2:33 PM  
**To:** Shepherd Dave (ONT); Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Cc:** Graves Don (ONT); Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: vac pump

Thanks Dave i agree . Lorrie who is administering the Licence Agreement at the site . Whoever it is needs to **is this the second such infraction in less than a month ... Is Wallace**  
as well . thanks . jk oddie

- (s) if payment is not received by the Licensor prior to the start of each month as per the terms and conditions of 1(a), the Licence Agreement shall terminate immediately and without any further notice. Any activities or actions done or made by the Licensee prior to this date will not be compensated in any manner by the Licensor.

**From:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2014 2:44 PM  
**To:** Oddie John (ONT); Shepherd Dave (ONT)  
**Cc:** Graves Don (ONT); Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: vac pump

The AWMS is the project authority. [REDACTED] states that it was not a piece of a cow, rather fat that inadvertently was left on the floor that somehow got into the vacuum. [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] staff are not trained properly to do this job??? Who is an expert on this? The Environmental Safety Officer???? I need more support from either that position or Region. Please provide. I will follow up with Finance regarding his payment status. This has never been addressed in the past despite the fact that [REDACTED] [REDACTED].... this has been raised to the regional level in the past. Once I am provided with an update regarding late rent I will again raise to the regional level. I am certainly not in a position to simply [REDACTED] contract, when this has been going on for years....

*ii. Misuse of CSC property and ignoring protocol*

**From:** Graves Don (ONT)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 09, 2014 10:13 AM  
**To:** Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT)  
**Cc:** Oddie John (ONT); Shepherd Dave (ONT); Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: CR 590-09: problems at the abattoir--JI m/n

Corinna

There is a sump pump in pit which we installed before we began our new system

If the new protocol is followed the sump pump is not required

If the operator is ignoring the protocol and diverting it he is likely using the sump pump to do so.

I would like to remove the pump. Are you OK with pulling the pump asap – I don't believe it is needed for any contingency plan and if an emergency occurs and we need it we can easily and quickly re-install it

*iii. Undue expense and stress on the institution*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** October 31, 2014 10:16 AM  
**To:** Shepherd Dave (ONT)  
**Cc:** Graves Don (ONT); Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT); Oddie John (ONT); Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: CR 590--09: Abattoir---- vac pump

Hello

I believe CSC was paying for Smith's hauling costs during the WW upset at an approximate cost of [REDACTED]/week.



On Oct 31, 2014 10:00 AM, "Shepherd Dave (ONT)" <Dave.Shepherd@csc-scc.gc.ca> wrote:

John,

I believe it went like this.

When the WWTP failed last summer CSC paid to truck waste to Cobourg as our plant wasn't operating in compliance.

The site put forward the idea to process blood water (only) in our digesters (tanks 104 and 105) which reduces the stress on our SBR's. We believe the uneven loading (blood being sent to the plant in batches) was what caused the upsets.

The idea to process waste this way was supported by NHQ, RHQ etc. and turned out successful SO FAR. – we've had zero reportable exceedances the past 12 months opposed to 10 -12 normal years. We saved \$ as well – trucking costs, etc.

Costs were further lowered by purchasing a vac tank this spring, essentially letting us take over the function of Smith's.

HOWEVER

From the recent invoices it would appear that we are processing most of the abattoirs blood, not just the wash water. Once again, I'm sure the operator has [REDACTED] as to why there are no invoices indicating blood shipments

**From:** Shepherd Dave (ONT)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2014 2:29 PM  
**To:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT); Oddie John (ONT)  
**Cc:** Graves Don (ONT); Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT)  
**Subject:** FW: vac pump

The stuff in the tank is supposed to be mostly wash water coming through the floor drains.

A big hard piece of cow ? through the floor drains? I'm sure Bruce will find an [REDACTED]

I don't see how we can keep doing this, and if we don't [REDACTED] again be out of compliance.

The last couple of weeks I had reports of "lots of animal debris on the surface"

At some point our guys are going to refuse to do this, it's not what they agreed to.



**From:** Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2014 3:37 PM  
**To:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT); Oddie John (ONT); Shepherd Dave (ONT)  
**Cc:** Graves Don (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: vac pump

Could you please be more specific as to what support is needed.

The Environmental Officer doesn't play a role in this. The problem has been identified. Region funded the vac trucks to provide the tools in support of a solution that helps out the abattoir operator and reduces his costs. The site staff worked out the procedures to further support the identified solution. It is my understanding that all this was communicated to Mr Wallace and that he was in agreement. What is needed is for the abattoir to follow the procedures and to ensure that these procedures are followed at all times, i.e. that oversight by the abattoir operator is provided to ensure that all procedures are followed in a consistent manner.

There is nothing more that we can do at our end, as we cannot be policing the abattoir operations at all times.

If the abattoir cannot function without placing undue stress on the plant, then consideration must be given to cease operation of that facility.

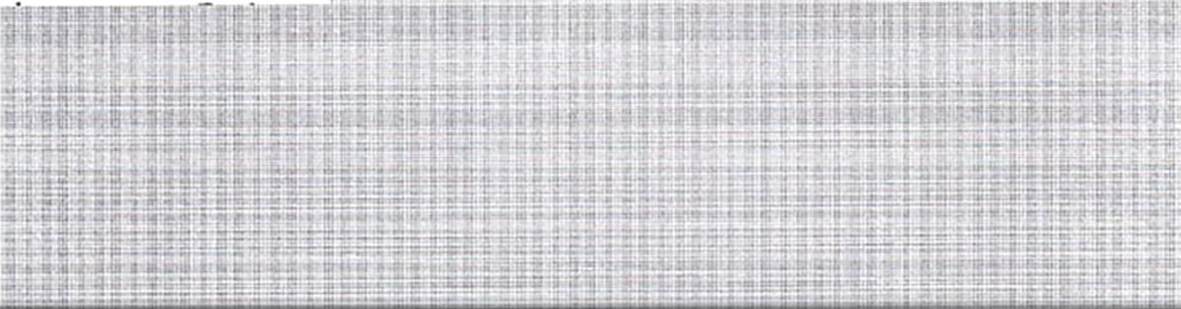
*iv. CSC has attempted to terminate contract since at least 1997*

May 13, 1997

Re: **CO-VENTURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WALLACE BEEF AND CORCAN**

Corcan Agribusiness does not wish to continue in its present Co-Venture arrangement with Wallace Beef Incorporated beyond August 26, 1997 which is the expiry date of the existing agreement.

Wallace Beef Incorporated



97.

We sincerely regret this action and trust you will co-operate in an orderly evacuation of the facility by September 1, 1997.

M. McCabe,  
Farm Manager

**From:** Snyder Paul (ONT)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2003 1:05 PM  
**To:** Grooms Randy (ONT)  
**Cc:** Keyes Al (ONT); Hagerman Corinne (NHQ-AC); FN-ONT-RHQ-DC; Burelle Marc (ONT); CR-ONT-PI-Records  
**Subject:** CR 8040-8 Abattoir issues

Randy,  
Further to our past discussions on the various issues surrounding the abattoir, and our more recent discussions on new information, we are concluding the investigation into allegations re. the security issues and I expect to have reports by mid this week.

From my briefings, I am deeply concerned that the issues present are insurmountable with the current contractor. The issues as you know vary between those of institutional security, statutory and legal, business and ethical. I am suggesting that we meet later this week as soon as the reports are finalized and thoroughly review and develop a response and action plan.

At this point I cannot support a continuation of the contract given the extent and range of issues for this site.

I have given a preliminary briefing to our DCO pending this meeting.  
I will call as soon as the reports are finalized and arrange if you are agreeable.  
Thanks  
Paul

**From:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Sent:** September 25, 2018 1:05 PM  
**To:** Burns Rem (ONT) <Rem.Burns@csc-scc.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Bennett Peter (ONT) <Peter.Bennett@csc-scc.gc.ca>; Burns Rem (ONT) <Rem.Burns@csc-scc.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Abattoir

Has Corcan notified Mr Wallace of the lease termination? And what does this mean for CSC? I believe Bruce but I will have to find his email. Will search for it soon. Lorrie

**From:** Burns Rem (ONT)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 10:51 AM  
**To:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT)  
**Cc:** Bennett Peter (ONT); Burns Rem (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: Abattoir

Lorrie,

I confirmed with Chris Staley this morning via telephone that Corcan have no interest in this Abattoir Lease Agreement as associated with the farm properties.

The two year agreement was granted because of the unknown farm matters.

v. *“It’s Wallace Beef or bust”*

According to Francois Malette (OMAFRA), the Joyceville abattoir is very old and has had numerous issues related to disrepair over the years. Even changing a broken lightbulb is a complex matter as the abattoir operator must adhere to CSC’s procurement policies. Disrepair and other matters have been a longstanding source of frustration for CSC, Wallace Beef, and inspectors alike.

The current owner of Wallace Beef, Bruce Wallace, is nearing retirement. OMAFRA has indicated that anyone taking over the abattoir contract with CSC would constitute a new operator which would require obtaining a new licence. This would require bringing facility up to current code, which would be a significant challenge requiring “a huge influx of money.” In other words, according to Malette, “It’s Wallace Beef or bust.”

This could explain why CSC’s contract with Wallace Beef has been renewed for decades despite countless violations, illegal activities, contractual breaches and staff frustrations.



## Ethical violations



### *i. Dangerous work, psychological impacts, and emotional desensitization*

Dr. Amy Fitzgerald, a criminologist and expert in the use of prison labour in animal agriculture industries, writes:

*“Prisoners who have worked in the Joyceville abattoir have detailed ‘dangerous and denigrating working conditions, as well as trauma related to inflicting or witnessing violence against animals’ (Struthers Montford, 2019).*

*Studies have pointed to potential negative community impacts of the animal slaughtering sector of the industry, including documented increased crime rates where large operations are sited.*

*Those whose employment involves harming animals may also suffer psychological consequences. Of note, one study found that, compared to a control group, butchers (n=82) were significantly more likely to report experiencing somatization, obsessive-compulsiveness, depression, anxiety, anger-hostility, paranoid ideation, and psychoticism (Emhan et al., 2012).<sup>”xviii</sup>*

Sue Donaldson, a writer and philosopher specializing in political theory and animal rights, presented testimony to the Correctional Service of Canada in 2017, describing how animal husbandry and slaughter work creates what is termed the “care-kill paradox.”

*“It is widely accepted that husbandry is not an example of therapeutic human-animal relationship. Rather, it creates what sociologists refer to as the ‘care-kill’ paradox, which arises in situations like farming and animal research in which humans are trained on the one hand to provide care to animals, while at the same time being trained to view them as products whom it is okay to harm, coerce and kill. This leads to high rates of moral ambivalence, unease, cognitive dissonance and psychological disorder amongst workers in animal industries – a widely-documented finding.<sup>”xix</sup>*

CSC emails provide many examples of commonplace abattoir events that would be disturbing for most individuals to experience, yet which result in emotional desensitization among those who become attuned to it.

**From:** Graves Aaron (ONT)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2014 12:51 PM  
**To:** Shepherd Dave (ONT); Graves Don (ONT); O'Neill James (ONT)  
**Subject:** vac pump

Hey

Today while pumping the blood up the pump kept getting plugged up. Took off all the hoses to check for clogs. Found several plastic ear tags, removed them and it still didn't work. We stuck a wire in the elbow of the input of the vac pump and found a big hard pieces of cow. after that it seemed to work fine.

ii. ***Troubling testimonies and Indigenous perspectives***

Evolve Our Prison Farms has spoken with numerous inmates and formerly incarcerated persons who have worked in the Joyceville abattoir. We have also spoken with individuals whose family members have worked there, and correctional staff who have been impacted by the abattoir's operations. Here is a summary of some of the testimonies we have received:

- X A woman whose incarcerated vegan husband was made to work in the abattoir under pressure
- X A formerly incarcerated person who published a book about his experiences, admitting that he had beaten cows on the former prison farms (*"My immediate job, however, was preparing cows for slaughter. It was my job to decide which seven cows would end up on death row on any given day. It was also my habit, while they waited to head down that ramp to their fate, to read the Bible aloud to them... I'd grown up a lot since the days when I was hitting the poor beasts with my fists."*)
- X A CSC staff member who described her trauma at hearing the cows in the abattoir on kill days (*"It used to be just pitiful to hear the cattle bawling away in that building as I drove in to work and they waited for their death which they could smell. I hate that place so much."*)
- X Numerous reports of injuries sustained by staff and inmates in the abattoir
- X Reports of CSC staff who have stolen meat from the abattoir
- X Reports of CSC staff "chuckling" about the "irony" of known violent inmates working in the abattoir (*"Our Research Division at NHQ has plenty of PhD social scientists with top-notch expertise in risk factors for reoffending, especially with violence. It's beyond me how they could sanction any such callous violence."*)
- X An inmate who describes the trauma of being anywhere near the abattoir (*"I personally could not be present in any area where animals are being killed. I have suffered a trauma so profound because of the offense I committed that just the thought of seeing any living thing die is unthinkable to me."*)
- X An inmate who described a cow breaking through the corral to the abattoir and escaped capture for six weeks until she was spotted by the prison tennis court, where inmates trapped her and spent another two days trying to rope the cow as she charged at them in self-defence.

One testimony stands out in particular. An Indigenous inmate at Joyceville Institution sent us a statement he wrote at the urging of an Institutional Elder, saying that abattoir work is consistent with his Indigenous beliefs: *"I began working at the abattoir in late November of 2017. As a man, and even more so, as an aboriginal man, I was brought up with the understanding of the importance of being able to provide for your family and community. While working at the abattoir, I can at least provide for someone's table. All human-consumable meat is sent along for further processing, the hides are picked up by a tanner, entrails, hooves, heads and such are processed by a local mink and raw dog food producer. I'm not just a number, following people around with a bloody mop bucket and a sweat towel. I am more able to understand the full cycle of life."*

It is important to note that over 30% of federal prisoners are Indigenous. Incarcerated Indigenous labourers constitute a significant portion of Canada's prison workforce.<sup>xx</sup>

According to Dr. Margaret Robinson, the use of incarcerated Indigenous persons in animal agriculture and slaughter work “ruptures Indigenous relationships to animals, and contradicts the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call To Action #42 regarding Justice: *We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems.*”<sup>xxi</sup>

**iii. Industry capitalizing on prison labour**

The letter extracted from the Indigenous abattoir worker, cited above, later turned up in an Access to Information package obtained by Evolve Our Prison Farms. Shortly after the letter was written (January 2018), it was sent to the Minister of Public Safety by the leaders of the Save Our Prison Farms advocacy group who lobbied since 2009 to protect the Joyceville abattoir from closure as an economic necessity for their beef and dairy farming operations. In 2015, they also arranged for Beef Farmers of Ontario to lobby the government on behalf of preserving the abattoir.

I have attached a letter from an inmate who is working at the abattoir. He wrote this letter on Monday. Without any prompting or information from us he so succinctly gives testimony to everything we have been saying since the closure of this valuable program.

We wait with great anticipation for the budget announcement and look forward to working with you as we bring the cows back to prison.

Best regards,  
*Bridget Doherty*

On behalf of the Save Our Prison Farms campaign

Maintaining the abattoir at Joyceville is essential to integrating the production, processing and use of food from the prison farm; as well, the abattoir is a critical service to many farmers in the region because it allows them to market their livestock to local customers (individuals, restaurants and butcher shops) at a better return than selling in the conventional livestock market. Continuing the abattoir service is critical to the success of the prison farm and to the local farm economy.

One of our Co-op directors is active in representation at Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) meetings. We understand that DFO will be making a decision on their position on restoring the prison farm dairy operation at their next board meeting. We believe that DFO will support the initiative described here because it is the option most acceptable to the dairy industry.

---

Thank you for the opportunity to give input on a model for the restored prison farm program in Kingston. We welcome the chance to discuss the submission further and to facilitate the restoration process.

Respectfully,  
Dianne Dowling, for the directors of the Pen Farm Herd Co-op





June 30, 2015

Dave Perry  
President and Advisory Councillor, Frontenac County

Dear Dave,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Frontenac County:

**WHEREAS, 2015 is a Federal election year, and**  
**WHEREAS, the abattoir at Joyceville Penitentiary is a critical part of the local food infrastructure, and**  
**WHEREAS, a significant portion of the Beef Farmers of Ontario revenue comes from the dairy sector, and**  
**WHEREAS, the prison farms spend a large amount of money on inputs from local farm businesses.**  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO consider writing the Federal party leaders asking for the restoration of the Frontenac Penitentiary dairy farm and the continuation of the abattoir at Joyceville Penitentiary.**

BFO would like to thank Frontenac County for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors supports the request to write a letter to the federal parties requesting the continuation of the abattoir at Joyceville Institution. While the abattoir at Joyceville Institution is important to the beef industry, the BFO Board of Directors decided that they were not willing to include a request for restoration of the Frontenac Penitentiary dairy farm, as this is not a beef industry issue.

A copy of BFO's letter requesting the continuation of the abattoir at Joyceville Institution, sent to the federal Minister of Agriculture and the opposition critics of agriculture, are attached. The BFO Board of Directors felt that these were more appropriate destinations for the request than the federal party leaders.

We hope this provides an adequate response to your request for support of the continuation of the abattoir at Joyceville Institution.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

It is clear that there are financial and political considerations preventing the abattoir's closure. Without a lease with an operator, CSC would have "\$0 leasing revenue for this purpose built building" and would be on "the hook for all utility bills."

and frankly does not encourage / foster any sort of sales from this location. From a security perspective we do want to limit and control any traffic related to customer access to the abattoir. As you've mentioned he could [REDACTED] but this would come at an added cost that may not be experienced by his competitors. Compounded by the potential fact that Wallace Beef [REDACTED] taking further revenues earnings away from him

In summary, I reflect back on the commitments made by the Commissioner to the Minister back in May 2009 to community to keep the abattoir open, compounded by the current thrust / vision being placed on Social enterprise partnerships. It would be a shame not to thoroughly reflect on this partnership. I am quite confident in saying this is the longest standing partnership with the private sector to provide employment & training to offender [REDACTED]

As the alternative is that the building sit vacant with \$0 leasing revenue for this purpose built building, which if he vacated we would the hook for all utility bills which he also currently pays. Not to mention the lost offender employment & training opportunities.

For your consideration.  
Dettef

Critically, the Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada made commitments to the Minister of Public Safety in 2009 when the prison farms were being closed, to keep the abattoir open. This commitment resulted from the lobbying of beef and dairy farmers representing the National Farmers Union and the Frontenac Cattlemen's Association, who also form the leadership of the Save Our Prison Farms advocacy group and who now sit on CSC's Prison Farm Advisory Panel<sup>xxii</sup> overseeing the implementation of a new prison farming operation that will consist of a 2200-goat commercial-industrial dairy operation,<sup>xxiii</sup> using underpaid prison labour to produce milk destined for a Chinese infant formula factory for processing and export to China.<sup>xxiv</sup>

*iv. Feeding mink fur trade*

As detailed in the letter from the Indigenous abattoir worker, "entrails, hooves, heads and such are processed by a local mink and raw dog food producer." This is Stonehenge Industries, owned by Walt Freeman in Battersea, Ontario. This mink fur farm produces 15,000 mink fur pelts per year and farms a further 13,000 mink,<sup>xxv</sup> and was the subject of a high-profile court case when an animal activist was charged (and acquitted) for obtaining undercover footage of animal cruelty.<sup>xxvi</sup>

**From:** Oddie John (ONT)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2014 2:09 PM  
**To:** Oddie Lorrie (ONT); Dally-Starna Corinna (ONT)  
**Cc:** Shepherd Dave (ONT)  
**Subject:** RE: Wallace Beef Invoices

The same information but for the period from 1 September 2014 to present ...Also it would be nice to know exactly what Stone Hedge is picking up as their invoices do not provide same detail as the other companies ... Going though the statements there was [REDACTED] picked up on two occasions and in small quantities .. jk oddie

## CONCLUSION

The history of legal, institutional, regulatory, contractual and ethical violations associated with the Joyceville abattoir and CSC's longstanding partnership with Wallace Beef far exceeds the scope of what has been captured in this brief report.

The current contract between CSC and Wallace Beef expires on September 30, 2021. It is the opinion of the author and reviewer of this report, as well as many correctional staff and the incarcerated men at Joyceville Institution, that the contract should not be renewed.

Given the evidence that is now in the public domain, the renewal of the Joyceville abattoir contract with Wallace Beef or any other effort to continue abattoir operations beyond the expiry of the current contract is likely to result in negative press, increased regulatory scrutiny, and potential legal challenges, in addition to ongoing frustration for CSC personnel and further psychological harm to incarcerated persons.





## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR & REVIEWER**

**Calvin Neufeld** is a social justice advocate, researcher, and educational speaker with a passion for human rights, animal rights, and the environment. In 2016, Calvin founded Evolve Our Prison Farms, a coalition of activists and academics advocating the transition of Canada's prison farms. Previously, Calvin worked as a legal researcher for the film and television industry, and as an environmental consultant for the Ontario government building an innovation-driven bioeconomy. Currently, he is the Green Party candidate for Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston in the 2021 federal election.

**Kevin Belanger** is the former Inmate Committee Chairman at Joyceville Institution Medium Unit and Joyceville Institution Minimum Unit. After serving several years of a custodial sentence, he was released on parole in 2021. Joyceville Institution is the site of the planned prison dairy operations, and the location of the commercial prison abattoir which has been exploiting prison labour in a partnership between Wallace Beef and the Correctional Service of Canada since 1995. Kevin's knowledge of prison realities, his position as a spokesperson for inmates, and his collaborative relationships with prison staff, all contribute to his indispensable perspective on the prison farms and the Joyceville abattoir.

## REFERENCES

*Unless noted below, all references in this report are from internal CSC documents obtained by Evolve Our Prison Farms through years of filing Access to Information requests.*

*Contact Evolve Our Prison Farms for access to any or all documentation in our possession.*

[www.evolveourprisonfarms.ca](http://www.evolveourprisonfarms.ca)

---

<sup>i</sup> CSC statement September 24, 2019.

<sup>ii</sup> Harris, K. (2019, June 8). [Audit flags risk of 'food-related health event' in Canadian prisons: Correctional Service Canada criticized after moving to centralized 'cook-chill' meal production process.](#) *CBC News*.

<sup>iii</sup> Ministry of the Attorney General (2015). [Farm to Fork: A Strategy for Meat Safety in Ontario.](#)

<sup>iv</sup> Correctional Service of Canada (1997). [1996-1997 CORCAN Annual Report](#): “Costly operations such as the abattoir at Pittsburgh Institution have moved from a CORCAN operation to one operated in a joint venture with the private sector. This provides offender employment and training, but at reduced costs.”

<sup>v</sup> CSC statement July 30, 2021.

<sup>vi</sup> CSC statement September 18, 2014.

<sup>vii</sup> Chan, J., Chuen, L., & McLeod, M. (2017, July 20). [Everything you were never taught about Canada's prison systems: A primer on Canada's urgent human rights crisis.](#) *Intersectional Analyst*.

<sup>viii</sup> Fitzpatrick, M. (2009, May 9). [Inmates to pay more for room and board.](#) *CBC News*.

<sup>ix</sup> International Labour Organization (2015). [Combating forced labour: A handbook for employers and business.](#)

<sup>x</sup> House, J. (2018). [When Prisoners Had a Union: The Canadian Food and Allied Workers Union Local 240.](#) *Labour/Le Travail*.

<sup>xi</sup> Ibid

<sup>xii</sup> Robinson, J. (1974, April 27). [Convicts Offered as Workers in Commercial Abattoirs.](#) *Toronto Star*.

<sup>xiii</sup> Statements made to Evolve Our Prison Farms.

<sup>xiv</sup> Interviews conducted by Evolve Our Prison Farms with prisoners at Joyceville Institution.

<sup>xv</sup> Ministry of the Attorney General (2015). [Farm to Fork: A Strategy for Meat Safety in Ontario.](#)

<sup>xvixvi</sup> Struthers Montford, K. (2019). [Land, Agriculture, and the Carceral: The Territorializing Function of Penitentiary Farms.](#) *Radical Philosophy Review*.

<sup>xvii</sup> Phone conversations, June-July 2021.

<sup>xviii</sup> Fitzgerald, A. J., Wilson, A., Bruce, J., Wurdemann-Stam, A., & Neufeld, C. (2021, January 31). [Canada's proposed prison farm program: Why it won't work and what would work better.](#) Evolve Our Prison Farms.

<sup>xix</sup> Donaldson, S. (2017, August 2). Remarks for Prison Farm Advisory Panel Meeting.

<sup>xx</sup> Office of the Correctional Investigator (2020, January 21). [Indigenous People in Federal Custody Surpasses 30%: Correctional Investigator Issues Statement and Challenge.](#)

<sup>xxi</sup> Email to Evolve Our Prison Farms August 13, 2020.

<sup>xxii</sup> Correctional Service of Canada. [CORCAN Farm Advisory Panel Members.](#)

<sup>xxiii</sup> Fitzgerald, A. J., Wilson, A., Bruce, J., Wurdemann-Stam, A., & Neufeld, C. (2021, January 31). [Canada's proposed prison farm program: Why it won't work and what would work better.](#) Evolve Our Prison Farms.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Atkinson, S. (2019, March 26). [New prison farm structure is taking shape: The program, for minimum security inmates, will be run out of Joyceville Penitentiary.](#) *Ontario Farmer*.

<sup>xxv</sup> [Faces of Farming, Walt Freeman](#) (n.d.).

<sup>xxvi</sup> Kitchener Ontario Animal Liberation Alliance (2017, August). [Appalling Conditions Exposed at Mink Farm Walt Freeman Kingston Area, ON CANADA.](#)



**EVOLVE** **OUR PRISON FARMS**  
[WWW.EVOLVEOURPRISONFARMS.CA](http://WWW.EVOLVEOURPRISONFARMS.CA)