



TO: Members of the Guelph Equine Public Policy Group  
CC: -  
FROM: Akaash Maharaj  
DATE: Monday, 04 March 2019

## Ranking EPPG Priorities

Please find below a detailed list of the twelve major subjects raised at the University of Guelph's Equine Industry Symposia, in subsequent discussions, and through our e-mail exchanges of last week.

May I ask all members of the Equine Public Policy Group (EPPG) to rank their preferred subjects at our online survey tool, by Monday 11 March 2019? You need not rank all twelve subjects at that survey; you may rank only your highest-preference subjects if you wish.

The results of the survey will determine which subjects will be our priorities for our first year of work.

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### **Access and Communications**

Promoting and broadening access to horses and to equine experiences by:

- Communicating the excitement and relative affordability of equestrian sports
- Recruiting Canadians from a greater range of social and economic backgrounds
- Recruiting Urban Canadian and new Canadians

### **Biosecurity**

Improving the health and biosecurity of the Canadian herd by:

- Establishing a national horse traceability system
- Encouraging good practices to prevent disease spread (e.g., vaccination)
- Promulgating the *National Farm and Facility Level Biosecurity Standard for the Equine Sector*

### **Horse Welfare**

Advancing horse welfare by:

- Assessing existing Canadian welfare standards against international norms
- Considering emerging welfare issues and new research
- Promoting the education of horse owners on effective and humane horse care
- Encouraging adherence to voluntary welfare codes
- Strengthening the enforcement of legally binding welfare and anti-cruelty standards
- Developing a national policy on free-roaming horses

### **International Trade**

Improving the international standing of the Canadian equine sector through:

- International marketing of Canadian-bred sport horses and race horses
- International promotion of Canadian-trained equine professionals
- Incentives for industry funding of advanced equine research and teaching in Canada
- Agreements to simplify international travel for sport horses, race horses, and horse professionals

### **Municipal Zoning**

Creating equine-friendly by-laws to:

- Allow horse properties to be established in a broader range of appropriate communities
- Not unfairly penalise horse activities by inappropriately categorising them

### **National Reconciliation**

Employing a shared love of horses as a means to advance reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians by:

- Supporting the growth of youth-focussed programmes and activities centred on Indigenous horse cultures and practices
- Supporting the humane management of free-roaming horses on Indigenous territories
- Strengthening the integration of Indigenous equestrian sports in Canada's national sport system
- Increasing Indigenous-led research into the history of Indigenous horse cultures and practices
- Augmenting public understanding of Indigenous horse traditions

### **Professional Standards**

Strengthening public standards for equine professions through:

- A public registry of equine industry qualifications
- Improved international qualification portability, comparability, and mutual recognition
- Independent assessment of compliance with professional standards
- Establishment of an independent agency to investigate abuse and exploitation by coaches and other equine professionals

### **Public Education**

Increasing understanding of the contribution of the equine sector to Canada's economy, culture, and history amongst:

- The public at large
- Underrepresented, underserved, and difficult to reach communities
- The Federal government and public service
- Provincial governments and public services
- Municipal governments and public services

### **Slaughter**

Augmenting standards and welfare for horses being transported to and processed in abattoirs by:

- Strengthening regulations and enforcement, for horses being transported to abattoirs and feedlots
- Improving controls, credential validation, and welfare requirements for horses moving across the Canada-US border or in live shipment to Asia
- Improving welfare regulations and enforcement at abattoirs

### **Taxation and Fiscal Policies**

Refine federal and provincial tax and programme policies to:

- Ensure equitable tax treatment of equine-related expenditure and revenues, in line with the policies and standards applied to other animal husbandry and agricultural activities
- Open government agricultural development programmes to the equine sector

### **Therapeutic Sector**

Expanding and supporting therapeutic riding and equine-assisted therapy by:

- Supporting peer-reviewed research on therapeutic methods and outcomes
- Developing industry standards for therapeutic facilities and practices
- Identifying and addressing horse welfare issues specific to the therapeutic sector
- Expanding public health recognition and use of therapeutic facilities and practitioners

### **Youth**

Increasing recruitment, development, and retention of youth in equine activities by:

- Expanding equine husbandry components of school curricula
- Increasing participation by underrepresented youth (urban, boys, new Canadians)
- Increasing public investment in organisations serving young equestrians at the “Developing Physical Literacy” levels of the national Long-Term Athlete Development framework
- Fostering co-operative and equine work experience programmes in secondary schools