

# Flokk Systems

## A proposal for a comprehensive Alberta response to bill C-293

### Background

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On October 22 [Bill C-293](#) (“An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness”) [began second reading in the Canadian Senate](#).

Two days later Alberta Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation (AAI) [RJ Sigurdson lead a news conference highlighting Government of Alberta \(GOA\) concerns](#) with C-293.

Addressing C-293 is a priority of GOA, not just AAI, as demonstrated by Minister of Health Adriana LaGrange’s participation in the 2024-10-24 news conference.

### Flokk Systems supports GOA’s rejection of C-293

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C-293 misrepresents its purpose to direct resources vitally necessary for pandemic prevention and preparedness towards unrelated concerns of MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith related to animal agriculture.

C-293 is redundant to animal traceability, animal health, and public health systems already in place in Alberta and Canada. It is intentional that the authorities and activities created by C-293 are incompletely defined and unconstrained in scope. C-293 increases the cost, and reduces the availability, of high quality, affordable, in-demand, and nutritious protein for human consumption without realizing any meaningful improvement in pandemic prevention or preparedness.

While acknowledging C-293 is a Private Member’s Bill, C-293 was proposed, and consistently supported in Parliament, by members of the current Federal governing party.

We concur with Minister Sigurdson that Alberta’s livestock producers are prepared to lead in the adoption of solutions that reduce their impact to human health. But uncritical and partisan support of C-293 by the party of the current Federal government erodes the trust necessary to explore these solutions and realize progress.

### Rejecting C-293 is a necessary, but incomplete, response

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Harm to Alberta’s reputation, weakening of the industry’s social license, and sustenance to those who pursue constraints to animal agriculture will result if the general public is left with the perception that outright rejection is Alberta’s only response when concerns raised related to animal agriculture are raised.

C-293 progressing this far indicates there are broadly held, if uninformed, concerns related to the impact of animal agriculture on human health. A complete response to C-293 requires government and industry leadership, and resources, for action that addresses these concerns, are broadly supported by industry, and are economically achievable and sustainable.

### An opportunity for Alberta to demonstrate leadership

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We propose four actionable opportunities, three of which are in progress, for innovative solutions that demonstrate Alberta leadership managing the impact of animal agriculture on human health and advance animal agriculture sustainability.

## 1. **Realize national livestock traceability**

A constructive contribution our Federal government could make to advancing human health and food safety would be completing their long, and repeatedly, delayed approval of the [federal regulation](#) necessary to realize full implementation of the industry defined, industry supported, and industry funded animal traceability system, the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS).

Technology inconceivable when Canada's livestock traceability regime (CLTS) was created 25 years ago is readily available and affordable. With GOA support these solutions, including our own, could be rapidly and affordably made available to livestock producers to accelerate implementation of, improve the outcomes from, and reduce the cost of, livestock traceability.

## 2. **Modernize Antimicrobial Resistance management**

Digitization and modernization of Alberta's Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) regulation and practices would:

- restore producer choice of, and competition among, antimicrobial retailers(s)
- eliminate administrative burden on veterinarians, providing relief to ongoing shortages of large animal veterinarians
- apply machine learning (AI) to deliver private, real time, comprehensive, and proactive AMR and animal disease surveillance at no cost to, and with little impact upon, veterinarians and livestock producers.

## 3. **Establish certified sustainable practice as the industry norm**

Leadership for this is already being demonstrated by GOA through the jointly funded "[Building resiliency for Alberta beef farms](#)" program.

[Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef \(CRSB\)](#) certified production and processing needs to be industry norm, not exception.

## 4. **Secure broad application of animal methane reduction**

Alberta uniquely hosts:

- institutions (Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), Emissions Reduction Alberta) that fund development of sustainability solutions for animal agriculture
- institutions (Olds College of Agriculture & Technology, Lakeland College) that can rigorously, and independently, validate efficacy of sustainability solutions and related administration protocols
- an institution (Alberta Innovates) that provides the innovation support and capital access required to take sustainability solutions to market.
- The entire production, traceability, and sustainability leadership (Canadian Cattle Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Canadian Cattle Information Agency, Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef) of the Canadian beef industry
- the "Building resiliency for Alberta beef farms" program, making affordable to ranchers the tools required to improve their herds safety and sustainability

- a carbon market (TIER) that enables robust and growing demand for quality carbon offset credits

which positions Alberta, through coordination and mobilization of existing programs, and at little cost, to be the world leader realizing significant and sustained reduction in livestock methane emissions.

## **Flokk Systems is ready to make our contribution to Alberta's C-293 response**

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[Flokk Systems](#) is an Alberta AgTech startup uniquely positioned to provide the technology solutions, industry relationships, and producer engagement required for Alberta's 19,000 cow/calf ranching families to make their contribution to a complete and defensible Alberta response to C-293.

Contact:

Mark Olson  
President, Flokk Systems

more information: <https://flokk.ca>

email: [olsonm@flokk.ca](mailto:olsonm@flokk.ca)

schedule meeting: <https://flokk.ca/olsonm>

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