

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

SCOPING MEETING

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Held at the Delta Hotel

Winnipeg, Manitoba

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 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:

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Reporters:

Lisa Reid

Cecelia Reid

1 TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:00

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. I
4 would like to call the session to order. We have
5 got a very busy schedule today, so we haven't got
6 much time to spare.

7 My name's Terry Sargeant. I am the
8 Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment
9 Commission, and I'm the chair of this panel. With
10 me on the panel are Wayne Motheral and Norm
11 Brandson.

12 I've got a few opening comments and
13 then we will turn to the presentations
14 immediately.

15 The Clean Environment Commission has
16 been requested by the Minister of Conservation to
17 conduct an investigation into the environmental
18 sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba.
19 The Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us
20 to review the current environmental protection
21 measures in place relating to hog production in
22 this province, in order to determine their
23 effectiveness for the purpose of managing the
24 industry in an environmentally sustainable manner.

25 Our investigation is to include a

1 public component to gain advice and feedback from
2 Manitobans. This is to be by means of public
3 meetings in the various regions of the province to
4 ensure broad participation for the general public
5 and affected stakeholders.

6 We have also been asked to take into
7 account efforts under way in other jurisdictions
8 to manage hog production in a sustainable manner.
9 Further, we are to review the contents of a
10 report, a report prepared by Manitoba Conservation
11 entitled "An Examination of the Environmental
12 Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."
13 And at the end of our investigations, we will
14 consider various options and make recommendations
15 in the report to the Minister on any improvements
16 that may be necessary to provide for the
17 environmental sustainability of the industry.

18 To ensure that our review includes
19 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
20 has undertaken to hold three days of what we are
21 calling scoping meetings. These are open to
22 groups and individuals who would like to identify
23 and suggest issues related to hog production which
24 could be addressed by the panel.

25 Today is the second day of those

1 scoping meetings. We held a meeting yesterday in
2 Steinbach or just outside Steinbach. And on
3 Thursday, we will be holding a day of meetings in
4 Morden.

5 We are not here today to engage in
6 in-depth discussion on these issues. There will
7 be opportunities, at a series of meetings to be
8 held throughout southern Manitoba in March and
9 April, for detailed input. A list of the dates
10 and places for those meetings is available at the
11 back of the room. Presentations today are to be
12 limited to 15 minutes.

13 And what we are looking for today is
14 an identification and an introduction of issues
15 you believe we should consider in our review. We
16 are also looking for a brief reasoning as to why
17 these issues should be part of our review. And we
18 would also welcome suggestions on how the panel
19 could approach our investigation.

20 I should note that written submissions
21 will also be accepted. Information as to how to
22 submit written submissions is available on our
23 website. The deadline for written submissions in
24 respect of scoping is February 2nd. There will be
25 a later date for detailed submissions.

1 The panel will use the information we
2 gather in these scoping meetings to help focus our
3 review to investigate the issues and to gather
4 additional information from the public and develop
5 conclusions and recommendations for the Minister.

6 I have a few administrative matters.
7 Many of you have already registered to make
8 presentations today. In fact, we have a fairly
9 full agenda. If you haven't registered and you
10 would like to make a presentation today, you must
11 register at the table at the back of the room.

12 Also, as is our normal practice, we
13 are recording these sessions. Transcripts of
14 today's session and yesterday's session will be
15 available online within a day or so. You can go
16 to our website for the link to the transcripts.

17 I should also note that any of you
18 that are interested in making presentations at the
19 main hearings in March and April, there will be a
20 small participant assistance fund available to
21 assist you in making preparations for your
22 presentations. Information in that respect is
23 also available at the back of the room.

24 One final note, I am not very tolerant
25 of cell phones going off during our hearings, so

1 please turn them off, or at least turn the sound
2 down. Don't answer them in this room. That's it.

3 We will now proceed to our
4 presentations. The first person on the agenda
5 this afternoon is Mr. Peter Mah from the Manitoba
6 Pork Council.

7 Now, I would ask, just as a matter of
8 course for the others of you making presentations
9 this afternoon, please identify yourselves for the
10 record and then proceed with your presentation.
11 Peter?

12 MR. MAH: Thank you very much. Thank
13 you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Clean
14 Environment Commission panel members, and ladies
15 and gentlemen.

16 I am the Director of Communicaty
17 Relations and Sustainable Development for the
18 Manitoba Pork Council. And on behalf of Manitoba
19 Pork Council and our 1,400 member hog producers
20 and the 15,000 people in the province working in
21 our industry, I would like to thank the Clean
22 Environment Commission for the opportunity to
23 present our views, concerns and recommendations to
24 the Review Panel today.

25 Manitoba Pork Council, just to put you

1 in context, is a non-profit, democratically
2 elected producer organization created in 1999
3 under The Farm Products Marketing Act of Manitoba.

4 Our mission is to:

5 "Foster the prosperity and
6 sustainability of the pork industry
7 for the benefit of pork producers
8 and... all Manitobans."

9 There is a public interest there. And
10 I would add: We care about the environment and
11 are rightly proud of the many stewardship
12 initiatives that we have and are taking to protect
13 the environment.

14 In terms of context for my speech, I
15 will be looking at review format, some suggestions
16 there, and also will hone in on some issues that
17 we feel is important for the CEC review panel to
18 address.

19 First of all, with respect to format
20 of the proceedings, while we believe public
21 meetings and input into the CEC's pork production
22 industry review are valuable, we believe that
23 "public opinion" is not a sound foundation for
24 good public policy decision-making. Public
25 opinion and the perceptions upon which it is based

1 is, by its very nature, subjective and often
2 biased, piecemeal, anecdotal and founded in a "not
3 in my backyard", or NIMBY perspective.

4 There is also the potential for some
5 persons or special interest groups to attempt to
6 undertake a "witchhunt" and to try to take
7 advantage of the public component to "discredit
8 and discount" our industry that is doing its level
9 best to protect our precious land, water and
10 natural resources. We trust that the CEC Review
11 Panel will manage the public process
12 appropriately. It also cannot be a numbers game.
13 That would not be constructive, nor would it serve
14 the public interest. We believe that emphasis
15 should be on the quality content of the
16 presentations and, in fact, fact and science.

17 We have a number of recommendations
18 with respect to format. Recommendation number 1
19 deals with assessing public input with facts and
20 science. We believe and support public input, as
21 I've mentioned, and to be useful, it must be
22 assessed properly. We ask the CEC Review Panel
23 and its technical experts to ensure that this is
24 done in three ways.

25 The first is by assessing objectivity

1 and whether the input is based on credible,
2 technical information to determine factual
3 validity.

4 Second, by determining whether the
5 input is supported by scientific evidence, peer
6 reviewed studies and research findings based on
7 appropriate research protocols.

8 And, thirdly, by giving diligent
9 attention to relevancy and its application to the
10 Manitoba context in terms of our unique landscape,
11 land use, climate, soils, hydrology and state of
12 the provincial industry.

13 Recommendation number 2 deals with
14 fairness and balance. And I am going to provide a
15 little context here because this is important. On
16 November 8, 2006, a "temporary pause on new and
17 expanded barns was instituted by the Manitoba
18 government as part of its third phase of the
19 Manitoba's Water Protection Plan," emphasis on
20 Water Protection Plan. "The pause is to be in
21 effect until the CEC has completed its review of
22 the environmental sustainability of hog production
23 in Manitoba." This temporary pause on new or
24 expanding hog barns is analogous, in our opinion,
25 to "banning the sale of all new family cars and

1 commercial vehicles until a public safety review
2 is completed." Ridiculous, of course! And poor
3 public policy, one would typically conclude. And
4 yet, for Manitoba's pig producers, this is the
5 reality.

6 For the record, let me repeat what
7 Manitoba Pork Council has already stated in
8 response to this unwarranted decision. By
9 singling out our hog industry for a ban, the
10 provincial government has wrongly and unfairly
11 "fingered" Manitoba's hog industry as principally
12 to blame for nutrient loading of Lake Winnipeg in
13 the minds of Manitoba citizens and, indeed,
14 Canadians. The imposition of the temporary pause,
15 with no prior consultation or notice to our
16 industry, was indeed unfair and unjustified.

17 We have since challenged government,
18 to no avail, to fully explain why it targeted our
19 hog industry for such a punitive measure when
20 there is no credible scientific evidence to
21 warrant such a harsh and a discriminatory penalty.
22 In fact, only about one percent of the phosphorus
23 entering Lake Winnipeg can be attributed to hog
24 farms. The remaining 99 percent comes from other
25 industries, human sewage from urban, rural

1 residential and cottage developments, recreational
2 facilities, other jurisdictions outside Manitoba,
3 and, of course, natural background sources. Yet,
4 for all other activities, government has not
5 imposed a similar "time out" pending completion of
6 a CEC environmental review.

7 Despite our objections, and we believe
8 an overwhelming public response during the
9 proposed regulation's comment period to not
10 proceed with the temporary pause on further
11 expansion, today it is in effect.

12 Manitoba's pork industry, and industry
13 stakeholders throughout the value chain, including
14 agri-business suppliers, are the most "directly
15 affected" in the CEC's review of the hog
16 production industry here in Manitoba. The
17 Manitoba Pork Council, as the principal
18 participant representing the pork production
19 industry, needs to be afforded enough time to
20 present its input into the review. We need the
21 time. As well, we need the opportunity to rebut
22 argument and input by presentation and in written
23 form provided by others during the public process.

24 We expect the CEC review process to be
25 structured, respectful and timely. We expect, as

1 well, to answer questions from the CEC Review
2 Panel on the input that we provide.

3 Recommendation number 3 deals with the
4 timely review. For the record, Manitoba hog
5 farmers would have welcomed the opportunity to
6 participate in the CEC review of our environmental
7 sustainability without the imposition of a
8 temporary pause that will clearly do nothing more
9 to address water quality concerns in our province.
10 Instead, it places at risk a Manitoba industry
11 that contributes one billion dollars to the
12 provincial G D P, more than any other agricultural
13 commodity. Indeed, it has created tremendous
14 uncertainty and hardship for Manitoba producers
15 and families that already suffered through a
16 costly U.S. trade dispute in 2004, 2005. But this
17 will also affect many others in agriculture and
18 agri-business in the feed, manufacturing and
19 transportation sectors that are dependent upon a
20 vibrant hog industry.

21 Even now, there are cases surfacing of
22 hardship by farm family producers caused by the
23 temporary pause. In one case, a producer has
24 suffered loss and anxiety because of a purchase
25 agreement requiring relocation of a barn by a

1 deadline with no prospects to site, service or
2 operate the barn.

3 The longer the pause, the more
4 uncertainty there will be about the future of our
5 industry. An uncertain business climate will also
6 drive capital investment, value-added economic
7 activities and skilled trades in the pork
8 production industry and construction sector to
9 other provinces or to the Unites States. It will
10 also reinforce the negative signal that Manitoba
11 is not business friendly. Uncertainty will also
12 pose increasing risk of added pig exports and
13 exposure, not only to U.S. trade actions, but to
14 an economic crisis rivalling the BSE border crisis
15 closure, in the event of a foreign animal disease
16 outbreak.

17 Manitoba Pork Council, therefore, with
18 respect to timing, asks the CEC Review Panel to be
19 thorough, but also to complete its review and
20 submit its report to the Minister as soon as
21 possible. For us, time is of the essence.

22 Recommendation 4 deals with focus
23 review on environmental issues. This is where I
24 really get into the meat of the actual issues.
25 And this is fundamental, I believe, to your

1 mandate.

2 In accordance with Section 6(5)(a), (b)
3 and (c) of The Environmental Act, the mandate of
4 the CEC, as requested by the Minister of
5 Conservation, is to:

6 "Conduct an investigation into the
7 environmental sustainability of hog
8 production in Manitoba, in accordance
9 with the specified Terms of
10 Reference."

11 "Environment", under the Environment Act, means:

12 "a) air, land, water or
13 b) plant and animal life, including
14 humans."

15 The definition of "sustainability" under The
16 Sustainable Development Act:

17 "means the capacity of a thing,
18 action, activity or process to be
19 maintained indefinitely in a manner
20 consistent with the spirit of the
21 Principles and Guidelines of the said
22 Act."

23 And that's contained in Schedules A and B.

24 Therefore, the CEC mandate to assess
25 "environmental sustainability", and that's the key

1 phrase "environmental sustainability", must be
2 interpreted to mean the capacity to sustain
3 indefinitely, for future use, the natural
4 resources of air, land, water and plants. In the
5 case of animals and humans, the intent clearly is
6 to provide and protect for bio-diversity of the
7 species so as not to endanger or threaten their
8 existence.

9 Accordingly, we request that the CEC
10 hog production industry review focus only on
11 "issues relating directly to the sustainability of
12 the environment," as mandated by the Minister.
13 And we ask that the CEC designate only those
14 issues as being "in scope" for this review. For
15 clarity, we respectfully request that the CEC
16 specifically define the environmental issues it
17 will address, and to limit review of other social
18 or economic inputs, so as to provide context only
19 for a thorough examination of the environmental
20 issues "in scope" and the resultant findings and
21 recommendations.

22 For us, the extent of the issues to be
23 addressed by the CEC will have implications on the
24 completion of the CEC review and consequently the
25 duration of the temporary pause.

1 Mr. Chairman, and panel members, I
2 would like to now turn to the actual issues
3 themselves. And again, I have included in the
4 presentation two tables. The first table is
5 "Issues in Scope". And the second table is
6 "Matters Out of Scope".

7 With respect to "Issues in Scope", the
8 following issues and rationale should be
9 addressed:

10 Use of water and water quality. The
11 rationale is to sustain water quality and supply
12 for future use. I am going to keep this fairly
13 brief.

14 We should also examine manure storage
15 and handling and technology, and this is to deal
16 with the safe storage and handling of manured
17 fertilizer.

18 The review will should also deal with
19 nutrient management to assure the sustainable
20 application for crop production.

21 The fourth issue, mortality
22 management, to achieve safe disposal of deadstock.

23 Odour management clearly should be
24 included, to achieve mitigation of nuisance
25 odours.

1 Siting of barn operations is another,
2 and this is critical for land use and siting
3 factors.

4 And going beyond that, we feel
5 environmental research and development activities
6 also will provide some guidance for future
7 activities and prospects for new technology and
8 best practices.

9 Another issue, environmental efforts
10 of industry and government. Now, it's not just
11 simply industry. It is not simply just
12 government. It's partnership between industry and
13 government, that's how we achieve things. And we
14 have been doing that time and time again. So the
15 CEC should assess the collective action to
16 protecting the environment.

17 It should also assess technology
18 transfer initiatives. Because beyond research, it
19 somehow has to get into the hands of producers to
20 apply that research. And so we feel that
21 technology transfer initiatives should be assessed
22 as well.

23 The ILO review and approval process
24 should be assessed by the CEC to assess efforts of
25 the dual role of local and provincial authorities

1 in the approval process.

2 And, of course, as mandated by the
3 Minister, to look at existing and proposed
4 environmental regulations, not only in Manitoba,
5 but also in other jurisdictions. And this is
6 central to determining environmental protocols and
7 requirements that, first of all, are applicable to
8 Manitoba. And I think when you go through them,
9 that you will find that there is a wealth of
10 regulations. But also to conduct a comparative
11 analysis of other jurisdictions to see what
12 application, if any, it would have to the unique
13 landscapes, soil, climate and so on.

14 And, lastly, we recommend that the CEC
15 look at environmental monitoring enforcement.
16 This affects, of course, public confidence in the
17 regulatory oversight and, of course, gives
18 credence to the regulations. And, of course, Pork
19 Council has always endorsed, always endorsed,
20 100 percent compliance with the regulations.

21 With respect to "Matters Out of
22 Scope", we feel the following matters pertaining
23 to animal welfare, business risk management,
24 insurance, barn construction and building code,
25 market economics, ownership and structure of the

1 industry, food processing industry, food safety
2 and traceability, animal disease management,
3 labour issues such as code, employment, training,
4 health and safety, property valuation and rural
5 economic and community development are out of
6 scope. They are not environmental issues. They
7 are contextual issues.

8 And, in fact, in the case of animal
9 welfare, clearly it's not environmental, but it's
10 also regulated already under the Animal Care Act.
11 As well as that, animal care is also an industry
12 protocol through the Animal Care Assessment
13 Program component of the Canadian Quality
14 Assurance Program.

15 The industry has taken efforts on its
16 own, in addition to regulations under the Animal
17 Care Act, to ensure the humane treatment in the
18 welfare of animals.

19 With respect to the food processing
20 industry, clearly that is not pork production, and
21 under the mandate of the CEC, as provided for by
22 the Minister.

23 In the case of animal disease
24 management, there is the Animal Diseases Act and
25 the Public Health Act. Those are regulated and

1 dealt with under those pieces of the legislation.

2 So, in closing, I would like to remind
3 the CEC, and the public, that significant progress
4 has been made since 1994 in regulatory reform,
5 livestock stewardship and water quality protection
6 measures that, when added together, ensures that
7 the livestock industry and hog production takes
8 place in an environmentally sustainable manner.

9 These measures include:

10 the first set of livestock regulations to regulate
11 manure application adopted in 1994,
12 the Farm Practices Protection Act,
13 followed by the Farm Practices Guidelines to deal
14 with livestock siting and odour management,
15 the formation and operation of provincial
16 Livestock Technical Review, or TRC, Committees.
17 And, of course, there is more.

18 There is the Livestock Stewardship Review Panel,
19 which held public meetings across the province and
20 reported back to government in December 2000,
21 followed by amendments to further strengthen the
22 Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management
23 Regulation in March of 2001.

24 The creation of the Office of Drinking Water.

25 Increased environmental monitoring and enforcement

1 of livestock operations.

2 There is the requirement for annual water source
3 testing for livestock operations over 300 animal
4 units, followed by the adoption of the Water
5 Protection Act in January of 2006.

6 At the same time, there was adoption of the
7 Planning Act, a new Planning Act, requiring
8 mandatory local livestock policies and zoning.

9 And then, most recently, completion of
10 the government's report on "Examining the
11 Environmental Sustainability of the Hog Industry
12 in Manitoba," which identified no significant
13 issues, no significant issues.

14 As well, government has implemented
15 mandatory registration and inspection of all
16 manure storage facilities, even those which were
17 not permitted prior to 1994.

18 It strengthened the Livestock Technical Review
19 Committee mandate and provided more resources to
20 it.

21 It adopted most recently, in November
22 of 2006, just a few months ago, a new phosphorus
23 regulatory amendment to the Livestock Manure and
24 Mortalities Management Regulation.

25 And has proposed a very extensive

1 Nutrient Management Regulation which, of course,
2 is gone for review and also is before the CEC.

3 And that brings us to your
4 investigation into the "environmental
5 sustainability of hog production in Manitoba".

6 So taken as a whole, all Manitobans
7 can be assured that Manitoba has some of the
8 toughest measures and livestock regulations in
9 North America to protect the environment.

10 Manitoba Pork Council is also
11 confident that pork producers have made
12 significant progress to protect the environment,
13 and we are anxious to prove that in the CEC
14 review. We caution again, however, that a
15 prolonged and open-ended period for review will
16 only exacerbate uncertainty and will damage our
17 province's business and investment climate.

18 In closing, our member hog producers
19 work hard to produce safe, quality pork for
20 Manitobans and world markets in an environmentally
21 sustainable manner. And we take our industry's
22 responsibility for wise stewardship of our soil
23 and water resources very, very seriously. We feel
24 we must all be partners in the solution to protect
25 our environment and our precious water resources

1 and, of course, Lake Winnipeg's water quality
2 because we collectively all have an impact.
3 Manitoba hog farmers are part of the solution and
4 we are, in fact, doing our part. And as a
5 responsible industry, we will cooperate fully
6 within the bounds of fairness and within the scope
7 of the CEC's review mandate.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, panel
9 commissioners, for your time. I don't know if
10 there is any questions.

11 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Mah.
12 Questions?

13 MR. BRANDSON: No.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: No. Thank you very
16 much, Mr. Mah.

17 Next on our agenda is Dr. Jon Gerrard.
18 Please identify yourself for the record and then
19 proceed, Dr. Gerrard.

20 MR. GERRARD: My name is Jon Gerrard,
21 and I'm the leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party.
22 I would like to begin by thanking you for this
23 opportunity to present the Manitoba Liberal
24 Party's position on the scope of your review into
25 the environmental sustainability of the hog

1 industry.

2 Four years ago, the Clean Environment
3 Commission specifically called for a full
4 environmental review of the industry to start in
5 2003 and to be completed by 2005. After years of
6 inaction from the current government, it's good to
7 see that you are now tasked with looking into what
8 should have been finished over a year ago.

9 The long delay in getting to this
10 review, when coupled with the convoluted and mixed
11 messages the current government has sent to
12 industry, municipalities, environmental groups,
13 and indeed to all Manitobans, has led to downright
14 confusion over exactly what the government policy
15 is.

16 The future role of the hog industry in
17 Manitoba and its environmental impact is too
18 important for government to ignore it any further.
19 The industry represents huge investments in
20 Manitoba, jobs in Manitoba and the growth and
21 revitalization of some communities in our
22 province.

23 Given the shocking lack of clarity
24 from the present government, Manitoba Liberals
25 want an inclusive, accurate and understandable

1 policy for ensuring both the environmental
2 sustainability and the economic viability of the
3 hog industry in our province.

4 More than anything else, liberals want
5 this government to stop treating the hog industry,
6 on the one hand, as a political scapegoat and, on
7 the other hand, as a type of electoral sweetener.
8 We want a policy framework based on sound science
9 and sound economics, not on political
10 machinations.

11 Sadly, due to the terrible failure of
12 the present NDP government, we have a hopelessly
13 inadequate knowledge of the impact of this
14 industry on our environment.

15 First, with regard to phosphorus, it
16 has been claimed that one percent of the
17 phosphorus going into Lake Winnipeg comes from the
18 hog industry, but the data on which this number is
19 based are questionable. It could easily be out by
20 50 percent, 100 percent, perhaps even more than
21 that. Do the 8.6 million hogs produced annually
22 in Manitoba account for just one-sixth, or less,
23 of the phosphorus going into Lake Winnipeg,
24 compared to 700,000 Manitobans living in the
25 Winnipeg area? It must be your task to provide

1 the credible answer to this question or, at the
2 very minimum, to ensure the basic research is done
3 to know the answer well.

4 Second, antibiotics. There are
5 growing concerns about the rise in antibiotic
6 resistance in treating human infections. And this
7 rise in antibiotic resistance has been blamed on
8 antibiotic use in animals, to the extent that in
9 1986, Sweden enacted a total ban on the use of
10 antibiotics as sub-therapeutic feed additives for
11 disease prevention and growth promotion. Is it
12 the case that Manitoba has reached the point where
13 we have to look at adopting the Swedish model? I
14 don't know the answer, but clearly it must be part
15 of your task to address this issue of health
16 impacts.

17 Climate change. A recent report
18 revealed that Manitoba's greenhouse gases have
19 increased by 11 percent since 1990, and that
20 greenhouse gas production in Manitoba continues to
21 increase. Manitoba is burning while the Premier
22 fiddles. A major reason for the increase has been
23 agriculture. But how much of Manitoba's
24 agricultural greenhouse gas production comes from
25 the hog industry? Is action needed here? And, if

1 so, what actions? Your report clearly must
2 address this important environmental issue.

3 These are just three quick examples of
4 questions that need answers. The NDP government's
5 latest propaganda piece, an "Examination of the
6 Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba",
7 comes nowhere close to answering even one of these
8 questions.

9 It is essential that you go beyond
10 reviewing the government's spin in documents like
11 this. What we need is a broad, comprehensive and
12 forward-looking report which sets the stage for a
13 vibrant environmentally sustainable industry.

14 We must know what is needed so that
15 the hog industry stays environmentally sustainable
16 not just today, but 5, 10, and 20 years down the
17 road. Your report must provide the solid
18 environmental stewardship on which the hog
19 industry can stand for a generation.

20 Now, some specific points. Limits to
21 growth of the hog industry. Taking care of our
22 environment is, without doubt, the single biggest
23 factor that will set the limits on the growth of
24 the hog industry in Manitoba. Without a clear and
25 accurate understanding of the measures needed to

1 protect our environment, the hog industry will
2 continue to be used by certain governments as a
3 scapegoat for every environmental problem under
4 the sun.

5 The utter failure of this provincial
6 government to provide both operators and
7 municipalities a clear context in which to
8 function has put this industry on the verge of
9 experiencing serious damage, as you've just heard.
10 This must change, beginning with your report.

11 Environmental liability. Your panel
12 must also look seriously at the issue of financial
13 liability around any environmental damage from the
14 industry. Already, it is likely the bill for the
15 clean up of Lake Winnipeg alone, maybe a billion
16 dollars, likely more.

17 No industry on its own can afford a
18 court ruling where it ends up being solely
19 responsible, or even partly responsible, for
20 liabilities like this. In Manitoba, we have
21 legislation which allows a provincial government
22 to clean up an environmental problem like that on
23 Lake Winnipeg, and then charge the industry. A
24 huge bill of this sort would, obviously, badly
25 hurt the hog production in this province.

1 While I certainly don't expect things
2 to come to something like this, your panel, and
3 all Manitobans, must be aware that the continued
4 failure in proper provincial stewardship is
5 leaving a Damocletian sword hanging over the hog
6 industry.

7 Your panel needs to discuss the size
8 and scope of the possible outstanding
9 environmental liability which the industry could
10 face.

11 Phosphorus loading. As mentioned
12 earlier, your panel needs to pay particular
13 attention to the hog industry's role in the
14 production, use and disposal of phosphorus, which
15 is the critical rate-limiting nutrient when it
16 comes to the growth of toxic blue-green algal
17 blooms in Lake Winnipeg and on other Manitoba
18 lakes.

19 Pigs produce a lot of phosphorus. But
20 the critical question your panel needs to address
21 is the amount of hog phosphorus entering
22 Manitoba's waterways, what can be done to reduce
23 it, and why provincial Tory and NDP governments
24 have been so derelict in using good science as a
25 base for public policy.

1 Waste management practices. Further
2 to this point, we know that the greatest amount of
3 phosphorus loading occurs with spring run-off.
4 The Clean Environment Commission must take a hard
5 look at ending the practice of spreading manure in
6 the winter and mandating the injection of hog
7 waste into the ground so that waste is no longer
8 subject to surface run-off.

9 In many parts of Manitoba this is
10 already the practice, for example, the R.M. of
11 Morris. But I would note that, in a bizarre move,
12 the provincial government took away the right of
13 municipalities to undertake good environmental
14 stewardship and now no longer requires injection
15 province-wide. Thus, the provincial government,
16 under the NDP, is directly contributing to the
17 amount of phosphorus going into Lake Winnipeg
18 every spring.

19 My preference, of course, would be to
20 solve the problem by getting rid of the current
21 NDP government, but that's not the subject of your
22 panel. That's the domain of Manitoba voters.

23 Your panel must look closely at the
24 issue of air quality around hog operations and, in
25 particular, at the location of hog operations with

1 respect to urban centers in Manitoba.

2 The Manitoba Liberal Party is the only
3 major Manitoba political party to oppose the
4 location of the OlyWest plant inside the City of
5 Winnipeg limits. Our opposition to this location
6 was based, in large part, on the deeply-held
7 concerns of local residents and businesses of the
8 potential deterioration of the environment, and
9 particularly the air quality in the surrounding
10 area.

11 Our party notes that other major hog
12 plants in Manitoba, those in Brandon and Neepawa,
13 are located outside of urban areas. This helps
14 minimize negative air quality concerns on
15 residential and commercial areas inside a city.
16 Our party believes the Clean Environment
17 Commission needs to investigate what fundamental
18 policies must be in place in terms of the location
19 of hog operations. We need to move away from an
20 NDP ad hoc approach, moving the goalposts on each
21 and every case. We need to give a clear signal to
22 the industry where they can locate and where they
23 can't.

24 I will now conclude my presentation
25 with a few short comments. There is a desperate

1 need to get away from treating the hog industry as
2 either a political scapegoat or an electoral
3 sweetener, depending on the NDP government's
4 immediate whims or needs.

5 What Liberals want to see from your
6 review is the basis for a policy framework that
7 leaves us with a hog industry that is both
8 environmentally sustainable and economically
9 viable for the long term.

10 Let us remember that industry works in
11 the policy environment that we provide to the
12 industry. If we want to make the transition from
13 what we have today, a snap moratorium, mixed
14 messages and hog policy chaos, to a structured
15 environment for hog operators with strong
16 environmental stewardship, we need a provincial
17 government willing to show real leadership.

18 In the absence of such leadership, it
19 now falls on your panel today, and in the ensuing
20 months, to provide it. At least until the next
21 provincial election. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
23 Dr. Gerrard. Norm, any questions? Wayne?

24 MR. MOTHERAL: No. My question will
25 be a personal one afterwards.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: No medical advice from
2 our witnesses. Thank you very much, Dr. Gerrard.

3 The next is Vicki Burns.

4 MS. BURNS: I just want to bring this
5 into your view for a little bit here.

6 Good afternoon. My name is Vicki
7 Burns. I am the Executive Director of the
8 Winnipeg Humane Society. And first I want to say
9 thank you very much for offering the opportunity
10 to speak about this very important subject, the
11 hog industry in Manitoba.

12 Now, I've brought along this display
13 of a real life-sized sow in a true replica of a
14 gestation stall because I think it really is the
15 center from which all other issues in the hog
16 industry flow. And it really is so much easier to
17 understand what you are talking about when you can
18 actually see it right in front of you.

19 So I am just going to take a minute or
20 two to explain what you are actually seeing and
21 then to explain why I think it is the root of all
22 other issues, and that we can't address real
23 sustainability unless we are willing to address
24 that.

25 First of all, the model pig is

1 approximating the size of a real sow, probably
2 about 18 months old. The model was based on
3 measurements that we got from the University of
4 Manitoba. They took it from their sows that they
5 keep at the Glenlea Research Centre. The
6 gestation stall is actually a true replica of a
7 gestation stall that was made by the Crystal
8 Springs Hutterite colony, who supply many of the
9 gestation stall systems to Manitoba hog producers.

10 The sow is moved into this stall when
11 she is about six months old, the age at which she
12 can first become pregnant. She lives in this
13 stall 24 hours a day, until about a couple of
14 weeks before her piglets are due to give birth.
15 Then she is moved into another room, into what's
16 called a farrowing stall. The farrowing stall is
17 essentially the same size for the sow, but it has
18 room along each side for the piglets. The idea of
19 that is that they want to provide space so that
20 the piglets are not crushed.

21 I want to just say, at this point,
22 that it is the gestation stall, not the farrowing
23 stall, that the Humane Society has expressed
24 concerns about. We are not opposed to the use of
25 the farrowing stalls at this point.

1 The sow is kept in the farrowing stall
2 until she gives birth. And then for a couple of
3 weeks after she gives birth, until the piglets are
4 weaned, and that can be anywhere from 14 to 21 or
5 28 days. After that, she is moved back into this
6 gestation stall. And within a couple of weeks,
7 she is probably pregnant again. The cycle repeats
8 itself about three or four times until she is
9 pulled out to be culled, mostly because her
10 productivity is decreasing. That's usually after
11 three or four pregnancies, I understand.

12 On the floor of this, you can see
13 slats at the back of the stall and that's where
14 her urine and feces will fall through into the pit
15 that's underneath the barn. The pit underneath
16 the barn holds the animal waste usually for about
17 a week. And I am given to understand that about
18 once a week they flush out that pit underneath the
19 barn and the waste is then put into the lagoon
20 that's a little distance away from the barn.

21 As can you see from this, the sow is
22 extremely restricted in her movements. She can't
23 even turn around because the stall is so small.
24 She can take a step or two forward and a step or
25 two backward. She can lie down, with some

1 difficulty, because when she is lying her feet are
2 going into the next stall, into her neighbour's
3 space.

4 And there can be anywhere from a few
5 hundred stalls -- sows in stalls in a barn to a
6 few thousand. I believe we have some barns in
7 Manitoba that would actually hold a couple of
8 thousand of these.

9 Now, in addition to the sow's
10 movements being so extremely restricted, there is
11 also the problem of no straw for bedding or for
12 rooting in. Now, the reason this is a problem is
13 because pigs really are instinctually driven to --
14 they are hard-wired to want to root on the ground
15 for some food to eat or to chew. They spend a lot
16 of time every day doing this.

17 Now, in the industrial-type barns that
18 we are concerned with, the pigs are certainly fed
19 what they require nutritionally. There is no
20 argument about that. But they eat that up in
21 about a few minute's time and the rest of the day
22 they are basically deprived of what they are
23 instinctually driven to do, and that's a problem.

24 As well, they are instinctually -- the
25 sows are instinctually hard-wired to create a nest

1 before they give birth. And when they are in
2 this, of course, they can't do that.

3 Now, as I said at the start, I have to
4 reiterate that really this is the basis from which
5 all of the other problems in the hog industry
6 stem. Now, the reason is that this type of system
7 is based on no straw and based on many, many
8 animals being together in a small space.

9 And the most important thing is the
10 liquid manure system. Now, the liquid manure,
11 liquid slurry, whatever you want to call it, are
12 problematic from the perspective of the
13 phosphorus, nitrogen and other pathogens that
14 leach into the underground aquifers and end up
15 getting into our streams and rivers and then end
16 up draining into Lake Winnipeg.

17 There is a good alternative, and that
18 is having straw-based systems, raising our pigs on
19 straw. Because when they are raised on straw, the
20 manure starts to compost in the straw before it's
21 actually placed on the ground. And I'm sure, in
22 the rest of the hearings, you are going to hear
23 from people who are doing research on that. And
24 there is a lot of study right now about how much
25 of the phosphorus and so on can be taken up by

1 crops and how it works when it's mixed in with
2 straw.

3 Not only does the liquid manure system
4 contribute to the problems that we're all
5 concerned about related to Lake Winnipeg, but it
6 also contributes tremendously to the problem of
7 noxious odours within the barn and around the
8 barn, and the reason is pretty simple to
9 understand. The ammonia and the hydrogen sulfide
10 gases from the animals' waste comes back up from
11 the pit underneath the ground.

12 And I don't know if you've ever been
13 in the barns that are using these liquid manure
14 systems, but it's -- it's very difficult to spend
15 more than a few minutes in those barns. I've been
16 in barns that have the straw-based systems and
17 barns that are the liquid manure systems. And
18 from my own personal experience, I can certainly
19 tell you that it is -- it's challenging to spend
20 much more than a few minutes in the barns with
21 this type of system.

22 It's well known that here in Manitoba,
23 in the last few years, there has been at least two
24 or three situations where the entire population of
25 pigs, in one of those barns, has suffocated

1 because, by mistake, the ventilation -- due to a
2 power outage, the ventilation system goes out and
3 the pigs can't survive for more than a couple of
4 hours in that. It also provides or creates a
5 tremendously difficult environment for the workers
6 inside the barns.

7 The other problem with the odours is
8 something that I am sure you will end up hearing
9 from people around the barns. There is a lot of
10 people in the country living close to barns who
11 have difficulty during the summer, depending on
12 which ways the wind blows, because the liquid
13 manure in the lagoons, if it's not covered, it
14 does create really difficult odours. And I think
15 if you are able to review the science of that,
16 we've discovered that it is not just a nuisance,
17 but it does create health problems for people.

18 Now, I just want to finish by saying
19 that there are good alternatives to these systems.
20 They already exist here in Manitoba. We have some
21 farmers who are raising their pigs on straw, who
22 are not using these type of systems. The Humane
23 Society gave an award to the Rose Bank Hutterite
24 colony just a few years ago because they have a
25 very innovative and simple system for group

1 housing their sows.

2 So it is not a technology that is
3 unknown here in Manitoba. It exists here in
4 Manitoba. And it certainly exists in other parts
5 of the world. The European Union, all of the
6 countries in the European Union, have to get rid
7 of these systems by 2013. Some years ago, the
8 European Union legislated that these systems need
9 to go, not only for the sake of animal welfare,
10 but also for the sake of the environment.

11 And some of the countries in the
12 European Union have implemented that ban much
13 sooner. Great Britain implemented it in 1999.
14 Sweden, as Dr. Gerrard referred to, implemented
15 that ban in 1986. So right now, in many of the
16 European Union countries, if they are putting up
17 new barns, they are not allowed to install these
18 type of systems.

19 And it is not only in Europe. In the
20 Unites States, in the last couple of years, two
21 individual states have been allowed to put
22 referendums in place in which they allowed the
23 public to vote on whether they should allow these
24 systems, Florida and Arizona. Now, in both of
25 those cases there was an overwhelming majority

1 that said: No, we don't want those systems. So
2 the move is happening in North America. And we
3 really should understand, it's going to make its
4 way up here. So really there is no reason to
5 believe that we are not going to see those kinds
6 of changes happening here.

7 So just to conclude, I just really
8 want to emphasize that if we can rectify what I
9 consider to be the terrible conditions that we're
10 allowing these animals to be kept in, I think we
11 can go a long way to rectifying a lot of the other
12 problems that we are hearing about today.

13 Economics cannot be used to justify
14 the suffering that is imposed on hundreds of
15 thousands of animals. It is not just the animal
16 welfare that's suffering. As well, I have already
17 talked about the clean water, fresh air. It is
18 time for us to put a stop to this and to start
19 doing the right thing.

20 And I'll say, absolutely publicly, if
21 we need to pay our farmers more to produce one
22 pig, then absolutely that's what needs to happen.
23 And there are examples in other countries, Sweden,
24 Denmark, Great Britain. If we want to look at how
25 other countries have made the transition, it's

1 possible for us to do that.

2 But the most important point to
3 remember is this industry is based on living,
4 breathing, sentient animals. They are not just
5 production units. And until we can get back to
6 recognizing that, we are going to continue having
7 a myriad of problems.

8 It is not too late for us to turn this
9 around in Manitoba. And we have the opportunity
10 to lead the changes in Manitoba. We are one of
11 the biggest hog producers in Canada. And why
12 don't we start leading the changes? So thank you
13 very much for your time and attention today.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you,
15 Ms. Burns.

16 Mr. Derenchuk?

17 MR. DERENCHUK: Good afternoon. My
18 name is George Derenchuk. And I would, first of
19 all, like to thank Terry Sargeant and the
20 Environment Committee for causing this meeting to
21 take place. It is vitally important that we share
22 our ideas and solve our problems together.

23 Permit me to begin by stating the
24 following, my name is George Derenchuk. I am a
25 resident of East Kildonan and a cottage owner at

1 Matlock Beach, Lake Winnipeg. I have serious
2 concerns with regard to the environmental health
3 of Lake Winnipeg. I cite the numerous E. coli
4 warnings and the algae bloom problems that affect
5 the quality of life at the lake. The
6 environmental sustainability of the hog industry
7 in Manitoba is at risk if proper safeguards are
8 not put into place and enforcement standards, let
9 me repeat, enforcement standards are not being
10 met. Consider the massive expansion of the hog
11 industry in this province should be curtailed,
12 pending a thorough review of the industry from an
13 environmental perspective. Let's check signals
14 and call a new play in the huddle.

15 Some of the issues that concern
16 cottages, cottagers like myself, I will attempt to
17 state. But, first of all, I am going to share
18 with you a preamble that I have developed. I
19 would like to state a problem. I would like to
20 identify a problem. And I always attempt to come
21 up with solutions to solving the problem. This is
22 the way I think we should handle any complaints
23 that we might have.

24 Preamble: Given the fact that pork
25 producers observed that the beef industry was

1 devastated by the BSE-caused trade embargos in
2 2004 and 2005 imposed by U.S.A. agricultural
3 authorities, I am fearful that such trade embargos
4 might apply to the hog industry in the event of
5 disease problems. Pork producers began to feel
6 that they would have to build hog processing
7 plants in order to survive financially.

8 With the rise in the value of the
9 Canadian dollar, pork producers could no longer
10 count on shipping young weanlings or piglets to
11 the Unites States and still protect their profit
12 margin.

13 Thus, the hog industry began to apply
14 pressure to municipal and provincial governments
15 for financial assistance toward the building of
16 hog processing plants! After all, value-added
17 meat product agri-business results in greater
18 profits for the industry, and hog barn and factory
19 farm expansion opportunities.

20 The problem: Economy of scale
21 dictates that a hog processing plant, in order to
22 be successful, especially with the rise in value
23 of the Canadian dollar, would have to operate on a
24 two-shift basis in order to survive.

25 Consider that the Brandon Maple Leaf

1 hog processing plant and the proposed OlyWest hog
2 processing and rendering plant are operating on a
3 two-shift basis. It follows that a guaranteed
4 daily delivery of hogs for processing is a must,
5 if the workforce is to be kept at task. This will
6 necessitate the expansion of hog barn and factory
7 farm capacity, ideally located relatively close at
8 hand to the processing plants.

9 In summary, Manitoba hog barns and
10 factory farms will now have to keep the weanlings
11 or piglets at home to grow to maturity, ready for
12 processing. This results in liquified hog waste
13 disposal problems, a mammoth task.

14 Given the fact that hog barn and
15 factory farm operators are engaged in the practice
16 of spreading liquified hog waste on their fields,
17 or those of their neighbours as an economical
18 source of fertilizer, then it becomes clear that
19 such a practice can only serve to exacerbate an
20 already serious strain on Lake Winnipeg from an
21 environmental point of view due to run-off
22 potential.

23 Now, you might ask on what authority
24 does a person like myself claim that there has to
25 be expansion to two shifts in a hog plant? Well,

1 according to the research that my son and I have
2 undertaken, according to Dr. Stephen R. Mayer, of
3 Paragon Economics Incorporated, has noted in the
4 U.S. publication "The National Hog Farmer,"
5 November 18, 2005:

6 "The proposed plant size at the St.
7 Boniface location is sub-optimal from
8 the point of view of economy of size.
9 This causes one to wonder if the
10 original OlyMel people were knowingly
11 building a smaller plant at this time
12 to better facilitate environmental
13 approval and once the operation is in
14 place, then insist upon permission to
15 expand by adding to plant size."

16 Now, then, some of the issues that concern
17 cottagers like myself on the lake.

18 Number 1: Expansion of processing
19 plants and hog barns. The recently announced
20 seconds shift at the Brandon Maple Leaf hog
21 processing plant, along with a proposed Hytek
22 plant in St. Boniface, if that happens, will
23 require that the number of hogs being processed
24 will skyrocket.

25 Where will the additional hogs come

1 from to supply this increased processing capacity?
2 Clearly, existing hog barns will have to be
3 expanded and new hog barns brought onstream. The
4 current Manitoba Conservation figure of 17 newly
5 proposed hog barns under review, and an additional
6 22 proposed hog barns being held up by the
7 provincial moratorium, is more than enough proof
8 that this industry will continue to expand at an
9 alarming rate.

10 Sub 2: Manure spills. Over the last
11 few years, there have been a number of manure
12 spills from failed earthened storage units and
13 metal holding tank units that, if built before
14 1997, are not subject to new tank specification
15 regulations and, therefore, don't have to be
16 prepared properly. These are potential disasters
17 waiting to happen.

18 Number 3: Manure spreading. Since
19 farmers manage the most significant part of the
20 rural landscape in Manitoba, the regulations
21 regarding the spreading of liquified manure,
22 especially near lakes and rivers, have to be
23 re-visited with the view to providing effective
24 safeguards for our environment. The proposed
25 Water Quality Management Zones were a step in the

1 right direction. However, backtracking on the
2 part of the provincial government, as a result of
3 farm lobby pressure, has curtailed the effect of
4 such a proposal. Additionally, application limits
5 on landscape clearly sloping to waterways are
6 required.

7 Number 4: Soil nutrient retention.
8 In a March 10, 2006 news release, the Water
9 Stewardship Minister, Steve Ashton, was quoted as
10 follows:

11 "Scientific studies unquestionably
12 demonstrate that soil does not have an
13 infinite ability to retain nutrients
14 such as phosphorus. These studies
15 dispel the myth that phosphorus
16 remains in the soil indefinitely.
17 They demonstrate that increasing
18 amounts are released with run-off
19 water when saturation is reached."

20 The Province of Manitoba has recently, for your
21 information, placed an advertisement in the news
22 media toward the hiring of four soil scientist
23 specialists. You can do your own thinking as to
24 what you think this might mean.

25 Why should the issues that I have just

1 shared with you be a part of the review? As
2 justification for the reasons that the
3 aforementioned issues of the concern on the part
4 of cottagers like myself should be part of a
5 review, I intend to read the contents of an e-mail
6 sent to the Premier of Manitoba dated 28th
7 November 2005 and authored by my son, Craig
8 Derenchuk, entitled "OlyWest plant and resulting
9 hog barn expansion." Here it goes:

10 "Dear Premier Doer:
11 While people have concerns about
12 odours and sewer run-off from proposed
13 new hog plant, I have a concern that I
14 feel needs attention and has been
15 ignored by all parties involved. That
16 concern stems from an interview where
17 the OlyWest vice-president stated that
18 he felt hog production would need to
19 be increased by about 30 percent in
20 the next few years to meet production
21 demands of the new plant. With a
22 current production population of over
23 8,000,000 hogs, that would mean an
24 additional 3,000,000 hogs would have
25 to be farmed within 100-mile radius

1 requested by OlyWest. To put this
2 into perspective, that would mean a
3 minimum expansion of 500 additional
4 barns, each housing 6,000 hogs on
5 average. All of this expansion would
6 take place in the Lake Winnipeg
7 watershed basin, which you already
8 admit is in trouble or you would not
9 have the appointed the Lake Winnipeg
10 Stewardship Board. We are Lake
11 Winnipeg cottagers and find this
12 possible barn expansion appalling, to
13 say the least. We have already
14 experienced watching fresh spread hog
15 manure near our Matlock cottage washed
16 into the ditch and right into Lake
17 Winnipeg during heavy rainstorms.
18 Manitoba Conservation in Gimli were
19 notified and warned the farmer not to
20 spread hog manure so close to the
21 ditchline. There is no chance we, as
22 cottagers, would accept a hog barn
23 expanding near our cottage area, but
24 we have great fear that this is where
25 your decision to build OlyWest is

1 taking us. Please consider that this
2 barn expansion has to take place
3 according the OlyWest people, and as
4 stakeholders in the lake, we are very
5 worried. I hope this expansion issue
6 will be addressed before the plant is
7 built. Thanks for your time, sir."

8 I would like to think that my son's e-mail to the
9 Premier helped to cause the Premier to consider to
10 check signals and call for at least a temporary
11 moratorium with this issue.

12 Now, the other reasons why, and I am
13 only going to cite six of these very quickly, but
14 there are many, many, many more if you research.
15 The City of Winnipeg Variance Order East
16 Kildonan/Transcona Community Committee meeting
17 21st of November. I attended a meeting of this
18 committee where the Granny's Poultry people who
19 first wanted to build a plant checked signals and
20 decided to build elsewhere in Transcona.

21 However, in that other location in
22 Transcona that they were interested in, the zoning
23 designation of that industrial area was an M3
24 industrial designation. Granny's Poultry people
25 are requiring that that zoning be downgraded to an

1 M2 designation before they will proceed. I'm over
2 time?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: You're getting close.

4 MR. DERENCHUK: Okay. Thank you. Let
5 me explain to you folks that on Wednesday morning,
6 the City Council are going to consider the
7 rezoning proposal and are going to reduce the
8 zoning from M3 to M2. But, you know, the city
9 fathers, when they looked at this business, failed
10 to consider that we already have a Vita Health
11 plant located in the St. Boniface industrial area.
12 And yet they had the audacity to give the green
13 light to building a hog processing and rendering
14 plant in the St. Boniface industrial area. I
15 wonder how Vita Health are going to cope with this
16 and handle this? I hope that there isn't a
17 lawsuit forthcoming, my friends. Do I have a
18 little more time?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Another minute or two,
20 if you could wrap it up.

21 MR. DERENCHUK: I think I'm going to
22 finish off with my concluding marks.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 MR. DERENCHUK: Issues to consider
25 approaching the issue. Facilitating the

1 development of a health/environment impact
2 assessment.

3 Number 1: Do not fast-track the
4 assessment process merely because certain pressure
5 groups are demanding a quick end to the hog barn
6 moratorium. Quebec took over two years to
7 reconsider and lift their moratorium.

8 Number 2: Liaise with Health Canada
9 and Federal Fisheries & Oceans with regard to the
10 health of Lake Winnipeg, et cetera.

11 Number 3: Carefully examine the final
12 report of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board of
13 December 29, 2006, which, by the way, up to now,
14 has not been released to the general public. I
15 wonder why it hasn't been released up until now?

16 Number 4: Contact the government of
17 Saskatchewan with respect to the cost factor
18 viability of utilizing other means than the
19 spreading of liquified hog manure onto farmer's
20 fields and the run-off problems experienced.

21 Number 5: Keep in mind that the
22 Manitoba Pork Council partially funds the Lake
23 Winnipeg Research Science Consortium vessel docked
24 at Gimli. And there are people like myself, who
25 are concerned that such financial participation

1 may serve to perhaps influence particular research
2 activities regarding Lake Winnipeg. Maybe the
3 government should sponsor other research
4 consortiums where funding is not accepted from
5 particular special interest groups.

6 And never allow economic accommodation
7 factors to trump environmental health factors. I
8 cited the Vita Health plant.

9 Finally, encourage Dr. Pip, of the
10 University of Winnipeg and Dr. Bill Paton, of
11 Brandon University, to contribute their research
12 findings, and those of their students, towards the
13 issue of hog industry expansion environmental
14 impacts, especially concerning the health of Lake
15 Winnipeg. In other words, don't stop the
16 research, please, please do more.

17 Thank you for permitting me to make my
18 presentation.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any
20 questions for Mr. Derenchuk?

21 MR. BRANDSON: No.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: No questions right now.
24 Thank you very much.

25 Next on the agenda, Mr. Syd Baumel.

1 Please introduce yourself for the record,
2 Mr. Baumel?

3 MR. BAUMEL: Yes, my name is Syd
4 Baumel. I'm a co-founder and co-director of
5 Animal Watch Manitoba.

6 I would like to start by thanking you,
7 the panel, for this opportunity to help make the
8 upcoming CEC review of Manitoba's hog industry a
9 turning point for humane, sustainable and socially
10 responsible agriculture in Manitoba.

11 Now, some of the buzz words I just
12 used signal the premise of my argument today. And
13 that is that one cannot serve the public good by
14 reviewing a major industry through a selectively
15 narrow filter, in this case environmental
16 sustainability, that disregards other socially and
17 ethical aspects of that industry. One cannot
18 review the gambling industry by looking only at
19 its impact on the hotel industry and disregarding
20 its impact on compulsive gamblers and their
21 families. One cannot review the Province of
22 Manitoba's greenhouse gas emissions by looking
23 only at industrial emissions of CO2 and
24 disregarding agricultural emissions of nitrous
25 oxide and methane.

1 And assuming we are a socially
2 progressive province that believes in socially
3 responsible development, we cannot review the hog
4 industry without reviewing its impact on many
5 things besides environmental responsibility, on
6 small-scale family farmers, on families and their
7 communities, on health issues such as the
8 development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and
9 the pollution of drinking water, on the health,
10 safety and workplace standards of hog industry
11 workers. And among still many other things, on
12 the focus of my submission today, our
13 responsibility to treat the millions of animals
14 used each year by the hog industry with basic
15 human decency and respect.

16 As I sit here, as we all sit here,
17 according to government statistics, we can safely
18 assume that most of the roughly 350,000 breeding
19 sows, who are the primary workforce, the engine of
20 the Manitoba hog industry, are standing, sitting
21 or lying in stalls like that on barren, slatted
22 concrete floors, behind the bars of metal cages
23 barely bigger than their own bodies. And I want
24 to add that that particular sow is a young sow.
25 By the time they are ready to be culled, they may

1 be spilling out of that cage. And that's where
2 they live 24/7.

3 I want to also add that I am glad that
4 Vicki Burns had a chance to really put this into
5 perspective. I will repeat some of the things
6 that she raised. I mean, the hogs live above a
7 cesspool of their own waste, which is washed into
8 this sort of lagoon below them that flows into the
9 larger lagoon. Its stinking fumes and the barn
10 dust are so toxic to eyes, lungs and other organs
11 that intensive hog barn workers are instructed by
12 health authorities to wear protective masks, even
13 for brief barn visits.

14 And studies have shown that people who
15 merely live in the vicinity of these barns are
16 prone to respiratory, neurologic and other systems
17 and disorders. Is it any wonder that these sows,
18 who are stuck permanently in the middle of all of
19 this toxic squalor, with no protection of any
20 kind, they don't get to wear protective masks,
21 either die on the job, and many of them do. And
22 they are young. These are young animals, sick
23 animals. Young and sick animals because of the
24 nature of their work, who are rushed to slaughter,
25 "spent" before they have lived more than a small

1 fraction of their natural lifespan.

2 The cages where most Manitoba sows
3 live are known as gestation and farrowing crates
4 or stalls. At least the gestation crates where
5 the sows spend by far most of their days have been
6 banned, or soon will be banned after they have
7 gradually been phased out in several
8 industrialized countries, two American states and
9 the entire European Union.

10 Like veal crates and battery cages for
11 laying hens, they are emblematic of the
12 estrangement of the modern factory farm from
13 nature and from the human instinct to be kind to
14 those weaker than ourselves, including the animals
15 we opt to domestic for our purposes. This
16 compassionate instinct has probably never been
17 stronger than it is today in our modern western
18 urban society, yet ironically it is in the same
19 industrialized west where these inhumane factory
20 farming practices thrive out of sight, but
21 increasingly not out of mind of a waking,
22 conscientious consumers.

23 The plight of the sows is only one
24 facet among many of the humanitarian crisis that
25 is modern industrial hog production. Though much

1 fewer in number, breeding boars also typically
2 live their lives caged in solitary confinement.
3 The piglets born to the sows are permanently taken
4 away within days to be fattened to market weight
5 so rapidly that they are only a few months old by
6 the time they are trucked to the sausage factory.
7 Like their parents, their lives have been lived on
8 slatted concrete floors in huge crowded, polluted
9 barns. They don't live in cages. But they can
10 legally be penned so densely that the amount of
11 space per animal, the average amount of space, the
12 so-called stocking density, is barely larger than
13 the animal, than any animal's body. So they are
14 packed together like sardines, in other words. At
15 least farmers have that option. They can do that
16 legally in Manitoba and across Canada.

17 It's not just Animal Watch Manitoba or
18 the Winnipeg Humane Society or the Beyond Factory
19 Farming Coalition that regards the welfare of
20 Manitoba pigs as a serious moral issue. One,
21 therefore, that should naturally fall within the
22 scope of the CEC review, even though this is
23 nominally an environmental body, it's the only
24 thing we have for this purpose.

25 In September of 2005, over 1,000 urban

1 and rural Manitobans expressed their views on the
2 subject of animal welfare in the hog industry in a
3 survey by Probe Research, commissioned by the
4 Winnipeg Humane Society. There were effectively
5 four questions in this neutrally-worded scientific
6 survey, all but one of which indicated that either
7 a majority or a plurality of Manitobans support
8 distinctly more humane hog production practices.

9 The one exception was a question that
10 suggested that only 29 percent of Manitobans:

11 "Would be willing to pay 10 percent
12 more for pork raised in pens instead
13 of stalls."

14 This comparatively negative finding, inasmuch
15 there was a higher percentage of Manitobans who
16 did not agree with that, actually suggest that
17 there is a significant, yet mostly untapped market
18 in Manitoba for more humanely produced pork.

19 The CEC panelists should investigate
20 the advisability of the provincial government
21 facilitating the shift and how pigs are produced
22 in Manitoba to service this market, which also is
23 booming in the United States where most Manitoba
24 pork currently is exported.

25 Returning to the Probe survey, let me

1 read the first, and perhaps most relevant
2 question, and I am quoting here, this is what the
3 people who were surveyed heard:

4 "Currently in Manitoba adult female
5 pigs, called sows, spend most of their
6 lives in a metal stall that is two
7 feet by seven feet. Which of these
8 two positions is closer to your own
9 personal view?

10 A: Some people feel that penning pigs
11 in stalls that are so small that they
12 cannot even turn around is cruel.

13 These people say that methods used in
14 other parts of the world for raising
15 sows where the animals move around
16 together in larger shared pens is a
17 better approach.

18 B: Other people feel that the sow
19 stalls are safer for the animals as
20 they cannot hurt each other. These
21 people also say this system is
22 efficient and helps keep the cost of
23 pork down and, consequently, using
24 stalls is a better approach."

25 I think that's a pretty objective survey question.

1 In fact, I actually think that the question, if
2 anything, errs on the side of understating the
3 argument for group housing. For instance, it
4 makes no mention of the very important creature
5 comforts of straw flooring, instead of barren
6 concrete, as Vicki explained.

7 And it fails to note that solitary
8 confinement is a uniquely modern solution for a
9 modern problem: The chronic confinement of large
10 groups of territorial animals in unnaturally
11 crowded and physically boring and uncomfortable
12 surroundings. And that this problem is much more
13 than -- is more than manageable for farmers who
14 house pigs in appropriately sized groups with
15 sufficient space and sensory and social
16 stimulation for each animal.

17 In spite of this, nearly twice as many
18 survey respondents, 52 percent, agreed with the
19 first opinion, that group housing is preferable to
20 stalls. Just 29 percent favoured sow stalls.

21 A month later, in November of 2005, a
22 National Decimer Research poll posed a similar
23 question to over 1,000 Canadians. And I will
24 quote this question:

25 "Some feel confining farm animals to

1 small cages that prevent them from
2 turning around is unacceptable, while
3 others feel confining farm animals to
4 small cages is acceptable.
5 Which point of view is closer to your
6 own?"

7 Now, arguably, this is more after slightly more
8 you get the answer you want kind of question.
9 Anyway, over 80 percent of Canadians said that the
10 practice referred to, which obviously applies to
11 how most sows are housed in Manitoba, is
12 unacceptable. And in Manitoba, and Saskatchewan,
13 for which the data were pooled together into one
14 group, the percentage was not much lower,
15 69 percent.

16 If a majority of Manitobans find a
17 standard bedrock practice of the province's
18 intensive hog industry to be so objectionable, we
19 have a significant social concern that the CEC
20 panel mustn't overlook in its review of the hog
21 industry.

22 As a journalist and an activist, I
23 have learned what few Manitobans know and what
24 many find unbelievable. The livestock industry is
25 entrusted to ensure the welfare of the animals it

1 uses on the honour system. The public's eyes and
2 ears, the government, never inspects even the
3 largest factory farms to ensure that minimal legal
4 standards of farm animal welfare are adhered to.
5 Only if someone complains will the authorities
6 consider investigating. But how often do good
7 Samaritans have an opportunity to see what goes on
8 inside these secluded barns? Public oversight
9 continues to be weak or nonexistent throughout the
10 entire lifecycle and death of pigs and other farm
11 animals as well in Manitoba, from the farrowing
12 barns to the transport trailers, the auctions and
13 holding facilities and to the final hours they
14 live in the slaughterhouses.

15 Undercover investigations by the de
16 facto eyes and ears of society in this particular
17 realm, animal protection activists, as well as the
18 testimony of industry insiders, has time and time
19 again, including in Canada, confirmed that a
20 system that reduces animals to nameless
21 commodities and cuts corners to compete in a
22 cut-throat global marketplace breeds, at best,
23 systemic inhumanity to that commodity and, at
24 worst, unspeakable brutality.

25 Animal Watch Manitoba urges the CEC,

1 in the strongest possible terms, to review the
2 farm animal welfare system by means of which we
3 exercise our collective responsibility to protect
4 millions of the weakest and most helpless
5 residents of this province. And we urge the CEC
6 to conduct its review and make its recommendations
7 in consultation with independent experts on farm
8 animal welfare from academia and civil society.
9 We will be happy to recommend such experts to the
10 CEC. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you
12 very much, Mr. Baumel.

13 Ben Hofer. Is Mr. Hofer here?

14 MR. HOFER: Good afternoon, ladies and
15 gentlemen, members of the Clean Environment
16 Commission. My name is Ben Hofer. I am speaking
17 here today as the secretary of Rock Lake Hutterite
18 colony in Grosse Isle, Manitoba. And as a hog
19 producer, I am representing 49 Hutterite colonies.
20 This represents about a million hogs annually.

21 I sincerely thank the Clean
22 Environment Commission for letting me speak and
23 making my comments at this on behalf of the hog
24 production industry in Manitoba.

25 Rock Lake colony is a community that

1 lives and breeds agriculture. Agriculture is an
2 integral part of our life. There are 120 people
3 living on our colony, which equates to about 22
4 families. Within our community are 60 children
5 under the age of 15. We need to be able to
6 foresee growth in agriculture to give our children
7 hope of the future and guarantee of jobs that will
8 keep them in our community.

9 Naturally, it is a major source of
10 revenue and our livelihood is dependent on it.
11 Agriculture is the basis of our way of life and
12 all Hutterite colonies in general. It enables us
13 to maintain our communal way of life, our
14 religion. We are truly a family farm.

15 Our farm consists of just under
16 5,000-acres. We run a 1,250 sow, farrow to
17 finish, operation producing about 28,000 hogs
18 annually. But we only have about half of that
19 amount on our farm at any given time, so your
20 turnover is about 2.2.

21 Who is more concerned about
22 sustainable agriculture than a farmer? Who is the
23 strongest steward of the land, soil and water that
24 provides for our livelihood? As farmers and hog
25 producers, we work hard to produce safe, quality

1 pork for our customers in an environmentally
2 sustainable manner. We take our responsibility
3 for wide stewardship of our air, natural planes,
4 wildlife and natural resources seriously.

5 Hog producers in Manitoba in general
6 admit arbitrarily to contributing one percent of
7 the phosphorus level in Lake Winnipeg. However,
8 only about 13 percent of the phosphorus comes from
9 agriculture. Phosphorus is a naturally-occurring
10 mineral in humans. It is the second most abundant
11 mineral. It is also important for crop nutrition,
12 for helping root development and helping crops
13 grow faster.

14 Too much phosphorus in the water
15 increases the presence of algae blooms that right
16 now plants organisms in our lakes and rivers. If
17 every pig in Manitoba were to spew today, do you
18 think one acre of land would go unfertilized? The
19 answer is no. If so, the application of liquid,
20 organic manure is of no consequence. As I
21 mentioned before, hog producers contribute only a
22 minute small portion of the increase in phosphorus
23 levels in the lake. We admit, we do a little bit,
24 but it's always negligible.

25 For example, human waste, cities,

1 natural deposits, dishwashing detergents, lawn
2 fertilizers, truck washers. Question: How many
3 sewage pipes from the City of Winnipeg are still
4 going into the Red River? It is really not that
5 hard to figure out. Just watch your water at
6 freeze-up time, that's a dead giveaway.

7 In our everyday lives in our
8 community, we address the phosphorus problem by
9 using our low phos homemade soap for laundry and
10 dishwashing. We do about 95 percent of our
11 dishwashing and laundry with our homemade soap.
12 And I was hoping to provide you with some
13 information on the phosphate contents. I
14 submitted some to a lab but I just talked to them
15 this morning and they said we won't have the
16 results until about tomorrow about this time.

17 Regarding truck and car washes, it is
18 quite feasible to wash a vehicle mechanically
19 without soap. Most Hutterite colonies use
20 traditional homemade soap made from caustic soda
21 and sow hides with a little citronella in it for
22 fragrance. It is a formula that our forefathers
23 brought over from Russia.

24 In 1970 the Government of Canada
25 banned the production of all detergents containing

1 more than 20 percent phosphates. Exempt were the
2 detergents used in dishwashers, laundry and car
3 washes. Why?

4 We are as concerned about the
5 protection of our environment as you are. The
6 attitude of water consumers has evolved over time
7 and over many generations. There is no question
8 that we must be more careful in our stewardship of
9 this precious life-sustaining resource.

10 In closing, in terms of the issues
11 which the Clean Environment Commission should
12 review, I recommend that you include only
13 environmental issues, things like manure,
14 fertilizer, storage, spreading phosphorus,
15 nitrogen regulations, safe disposal of our dead
16 animals, protection of the water supply and modern
17 farming methods used to protect the environment.

18 I do not believe that the structure of
19 our colony farm, colony as a way of life and
20 things like animal feed, animal husbandry or
21 animal welfare are at all related to the farm
22 environment. These should not be in your review.

23 We are depending on a sustainable to
24 offer hope to our 60 children on our colony so
25 that we will have a choice to remain in our

1 community, to work and to live. Thank you for
2 your time and consideration of my comments.

3 Now, I guess I still have time?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

5 MR. HOFER: I thought this was
6 strictly environmental here, but since Vicki
7 brought the sow here, I would like to comment on
8 this sow here. Has anybody ever wondered: Why is
9 that sow in that stall? That sow is in there for
10 her own security. Have any of you ever seen sows
11 fight? Have any of you ever seen ripped vaginas?
12 There is nothing funny about that. That sow is in
13 there for her own security.

14 Now, I get the feeling, and I'll quote
15 Vicki Burns here, that I am going to -- maybe it's
16 best if I asked it this way. When David Milgaard
17 was in jail, was it a physical hurt or was it a
18 psychological hurt? The message that Vicki seems
19 to convey to the public is the sow has a
20 psychological hurt. I don't think that is true.

21 So I guess that's about the extent of
22 my presentation. I thank you for letting me
23 present it.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hofer.
25 And if you wish, once you get those lab results

1 about your soap, you can submit them to us by
2 mail. We would be glad to look at them and put
3 them on the record.

4 MR. HOFER: Okay. Thank you very
5 much.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sangster.

7 MR. SANGSTER: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity for us to appear
9 here today before you. We have provided a written
10 submission of our presentation for your reference,
11 and I've given that to Cathy already.

12 My name is Craig Sangster. I am of
13 Vita Health Products and here representing the St.
14 Boniface Industrial Park OlyWest Business
15 Opposition Group, more commonly referred to as
16 "OlyOp". Our group consists of businesses already
17 located in the St. Boniface Industrial Park area
18 and we came together shortly after the OlyWest Hog
19 Processing Plant announcement was made public.

20 We are opposed to the site location of
21 this facility, not necessarily to the development
22 itself. And we are equally concerned with a
23 process or, better stated, lack of a process, that
24 would lead to such controversy, such poor judgment
25 and such a monumental waste of time, effort and

1 resources for all concerned, including opponents
2 and proponents of this project. And for these
3 main reasons, we appear here today, not only to
4 ensure our interests are protected, but to do
5 everything within our power to ensure a same or
6 similar situation will never be repeated anywhere
7 within the Province of Manitoba.

8 As business owners, our involvement,
9 research and our many discussions and sharing of
10 information with experts here and around North
11 America has given us, perhaps, a unique
12 perspective and position on specific issues
13 relating to the hog industry, in particular, and
14 to the greater concepts of sustainable development
15 as a whole.

16 During our involvement in the OlyWest
17 issue, we have gained new insights from people
18 such as the International Institute of Sustainable
19 Development, the Farm Foundation, Environmental
20 Justice of Canada, corporate leaders,
21 environmentalists, engineers and politicians.

22 We are here today to provide, for your
23 consideration, our position on what we believe the
24 Commission must take into consideration during
25 this hog industry review relating to

1 agri-business, sustainable development, the
2 process now in place, and provide comments on how
3 a better process might, in fact, be developed. We
4 also want to encourage you, at this stage and the
5 next, to think in terms of: How can this be
6 developed into an opportunity? How could this
7 better serve more people? Why has a case such as
8 OlyWest become such a problem? And could a better
9 model be adopted in the future to ensure such
10 matters do not arise again in this way?

11 We commend the Manitoba government and
12 the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission for
13 undertaking this review. The work you are doing
14 is very important because it is one major input to
15 private sector and government economic development
16 planning.

17 The opportunity you have before you is
18 to help set the tone. Help set the environmental
19 agenda. Help set the framework within which all
20 ongoing and new developments and activities must
21 not only fit, but must add to the quality of life
22 for its immediate community and, ideally, national
23 and global communities as well.

24 What we have far too often had in this
25 province, it seems, is development without context

1 or apparent logic. Development pushed to whatever
2 limits one can get away with, often with
3 self-serving interests and disregard, wittingly or
4 unwittingly, for the interests of others.

5 In the main, our green plans, as
6 voiced by governments, seem little more than
7 political statements and platitudes. They are not
8 canons by which government leads and we must
9 follow. Despite these political statements, large
10 and small developments continue to occur, absent
11 of a formula that would address the issues at the
12 outset. Government hails an OlyWest announcement
13 as proof we are the most desirable province in
14 Canada or the world to do business and our
15 environmental principles be damned.

16 And that may seem harsh to some of
17 you, particularly in the Commission, because the
18 Province will argue that it counts on the CEC to
19 give them sound advice. But, unfortunately, it is
20 just that, advice. Advice it can take or leave,
21 as it has in the past, for political reasons. And
22 under this current system, this advice comes at
23 the end of the process. Such as in the case with
24 OlyWest, where the licensing hearings are held as
25 a last step prior to construction, where the

1 development proposal is far more difficult to
2 reverse, or even significantly modify, because of
3 the enormous investment that they have already
4 made and the entrenched positions that everyone
5 holds.

6 Perhaps even more important is the
7 fact that under our present system, "developers"
8 keep right on developing. Developers that would
9 include, more specifically for your purposes,
10 so-called farmers, which, in reality, are factory
11 farms far more resembling huge industrial
12 enterprises than any traditional notion of farming
13 that we imagine it to be. And they will do so, as
14 long as there are economic opportunities that
15 include a regulatory process that does not become
16 too cumbersome, expensive or intrusive.

17 So what we have currently is a
18 triangle which includes society as a whole,
19 government and regulators such as yourselves, the
20 CEC, where government draws up visionary "green
21 plans," environmental acts and regulations, plus
22 participates in the pan global dreams of, for
23 example, the Kyoto Accord.

24 Then society members propose new
25 developments, gaining government financial

1 assistance, with little or no regard to the
2 political green plans, except to refer final
3 recommendation for licensing to the regulator, the
4 CEC, in this case.

5 Even when organizations are licensed
6 with environmental conditions, they know that once
7 the jobs are created and the "factories" are in
8 operation, government police will be very
9 "reasonable." You don't get shut down for a few
10 slips along the way. And both government and
11 developers have counted on any public opposition
12 that may be associated with the project to quietly
13 fade away with time. That may be, up to now!

14 The fact the OlyWest project has met
15 with such sustained public opposition, and the
16 fact that you have been asked to review this
17 entire industry, is clear evidence to us that
18 those days, just described, are now past. The
19 public will not quietly fade away any longer. And
20 governments, if they plan to remain in power to
21 govern, must develop green plans that are
22 meaningful, are comprehensive, are enforced and
23 take into full consideration the best interests of
24 economic development and expansion, without
25 sacrificing the best interests of our environment

1 at all levels, both physical and social.

2 A strategy is required, developed in
3 partnership with all communities of interest,
4 being the stakeholders, embracing the green plan
5 principles and stating that all future development
6 must be consistent with this vision.

7 We appeared to be coming close to this
8 in 2001 when COSDI was established by the Premier
9 because he was intent, it seemed, on true
10 implementation of sustainable development
11 principles. This work, the COSDI document and
12 research, could, indeed, form the basis for you
13 for ongoing efforts.

14 Once the canons are in place, then
15 subsequent action must be integral with the
16 inherent principles, policies and visions
17 contained within them. Such a plan would show
18 what actions are acceptable or not acceptable.
19 What the requirements and opportunities are in
20 Manitoba, where they might be best be located,
21 whether it be rural, urban or metro-adjacent and
22 what the expected process looks like. This would
23 then provide a template to assess all new
24 development plans which would be done upfront,
25 prior to developers making a huge investment into

1 the project, and avoiding the controversy that we
2 have seen with a project like the OlyWest one.

3 Decisions should be focused on
4 progress, quality of life and sustainable
5 development, as put forward by the IISD. And I
6 quote here:

7 "Sustainable development meets the
8 needs of the present without
9 compromising the ability of future
10 generations to meet their own needs.
11 It contains within it two key
12 concepts: The concept of "needs", in
13 particular the essential needs of the
14 world's poor, to which overriding
15 priority should be given; and the idea
16 of limitations imposed by the state of
17 technology and social organization on
18 the environment's ability to meet
19 present and the future needs."

20 And that's from the Brundtland Commission of 1987.

21 And a further quote:

22 "Sustainable development is based on
23 socio-cultural development, political
24 stability and decorum, economic growth
25 and ecosystem protection, which all

1 relate to disaster risk reduction."

2 So sustainable development, in our mind, is a
3 collection of methods to create economic growth
4 which protects the environment, relieves poverty
5 and does not destroy natural capital in the short
6 term at the expense of long-term development.

7 Sustainable development does not focus
8 solely on environmental issues. More broadly,
9 sustainable development policies encompass three
10 general policy areas, being economic,
11 environmental and social. In support of this,
12 several United Nations texts, most recently the
13 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, refer to the
14 "Interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars"
15 of sustainable development as economic
16 development, social development, and environmental
17 protection.

18 When that is in place, micro matters,
19 such as an OlyWest, or a new hog barn, are much
20 easier to deal with. Either they are consistent
21 within the sustainable development policies and
22 visions of the people and, therefore, should be
23 approved, or they are not and should not be given
24 any further consideration.

25 Of critical importance to this issue,

1 Manitoba also needs to know where it's going in
2 the area of strategic economic development. What
3 are its strengths? Where can it carve out a
4 position for itself in a very competitive world,
5 but not sell its soul doing in doing so. And we
6 would say a hog slaughter plant in the wrong
7 location is an example of doing just that.

8 In addition, who is thinking about the
9 opportunity? What additional opportunities could
10 be generated around this one idea? Here we are
11 restricted to the hog industry. But this same
12 model has application across all agricultural and
13 industrial endeavours. How could we become the
14 very best at agri-business and still demonstrate
15 best practices?

16 How, in fact, can we turn what many
17 are saying is an insurmountable problem into a
18 sustainable opportunity that serves us all and
19 could, in fact, become a model for the rest of the
20 world to follow?

21 On another occasion, we would welcome
22 the opportunity to discuss how these thoughts
23 might be developed. We strongly believe that the
24 IISD should be involved, along with the government
25 of Manitoba, and the private sector. We have

1 people in our own group who would not only be
2 willing participants in such an undertaking, but
3 are willing to take on a leadership role in that
4 endeavour.

5 So, in summary, our position is this:
6 First, it is not enough for the CEC to confine its
7 review to the hog production industry alone. A
8 review of the hog industry must include all
9 aspects of, including production, support and
10 processing such as the OlyWest proposal.

11 Second, sustainable economic
12 development requires that the province first
13 define the long-term objectives and then devise a
14 strategy by which all future developments will be
15 governed. The CEC could play an invaluable role
16 in helping to set the framework by which this
17 could be achieved and subsequently adopted for all
18 economic development initiatives.

19 The CEC is also in a unique position
20 to require or to review, pardon me, and put
21 forward recommendations that will lead to the
22 creation of a working model for assessing all
23 future development opportunities that will far
24 better serve the interests of all parties. You
25 can help upfront, versus at the back end of a

1 project when, in many cases, it's too late.

2 Fourth, the International Institute of
3 Sustainable Development, the IISD, located right
4 here, founded right here in Winnipeg, bring
5 considerable expertise and insight into the many
6 issues surrounding sustainable development and
7 should be fully solicited to provide their input
8 into this review.

9 And, finally, the private sector has
10 much to bring to the table in this regard and
11 their considerable insight and expertise should
12 also be an integral part of your review.

13 So, in conclusion, we would like to
14 thank you, again, Mr. Chairman, for the
15 opportunity to provide our views to the Commission
16 here today. If Manitoba is truly going to create
17 a sustainable future, it must begin with a
18 well-designed plan that takes all of these various
19 considerations into account. You have the
20 opportunity and, indeed, we would say the
21 responsibility to help ensure that this occurs.
22 Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

24 MR. MOTHERAL: Mr. Sangster, at the
25 beginning of your presentation you mentioned a

1 Farm Foundation. And I, just for clarification,
2 didn't know exactly what you meant by that.

3 MR. SANGSTER: We will provide,
4 actually, a direct link to that foundation for
5 your reference purposes.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. I always take
7 notice of organizations. And I've never heard of
8 that, that's all.

9 MR. SANGSTER: And you should and you
10 will.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Sangster.

13 MR. SANGSTER: Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: We will take a short
15 break now and come back at 3:00 sharp, so about 12
16 minutes from now.

17 (Proceedings recessed at 2:48 and
18 resumed at 3:02 p.m.)

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Could we come back to
20 order, please. Next up is the Manitoba Livestock
21 Manure Management Initiative.

22 MS. STREET: Good afternoon. My name
23 is Brandy Street, and I'm representing the
24 Manitoba Livestock Manure Management Initiative.
25 Before I start, I want to thank the Commission for

1 hearing our views and concerns today.

2 So to start off, I just want to
3 mention why we are here. The Manitoba Livestock
4 Manure Management Initiative, or MLMMI, recognizes
5 that the livestock sector can be a contributor to
6 nutrients in surface and ground water supply, and
7 that the government has brought in regulations and
8 will continue to bring in regulations to manage
9 nutrient loading. However, there is need for
10 science-based best management practices to enhance
11 the environmental sustainability of the livestock
12 industry and make for more fair and equitable
13 regulations. The CEC should take a proactive role
14 and sustained leadership in addressing this need.

15

16 The major interest of the MLMMI is
17 making the livestock sector more environmentally
18 and economically sustainable. And we can assist
19 the CEC in this proactive role in environmental
20 stewardship research.

21 I want to take a minute to briefly go
22 over a little bit about the MLMMI itself. It was
23 incorporated in January of 1998, and we have a
24 board of directors representing a very diverse
25 group of stakeholders, including industry,

1 producers, environment academics, consumers and
2 the public. We were given \$100,000 in startup
3 funds from the SDIF, and we have had major
4 contributors since then, including Manitoba Pork,
5 government groups such as ARDI, MRAC and the SDIF,
6 as well as other industry groups.

7 Our mandate, to quote,
8 "Coordinate efforts to resolve issues
9 relating to manure management which
10 enhance the continued growth and
11 development of these interrelated
12 industries, and assist industry to
13 promote the sustainable management of
14 manure as a valuable resource and
15 encourage the development of improved
16 production management practices."

17 The emphasis here being on finding
18 solutions for Manitoba conditions.

19 Our goal is to allow Manitoba
20 livestock industries to achieve their full
21 economic potential through sustainable growth.

22 Now moving on to what the MLMMI finds
23 the most important issues to be. There are three
24 major areas of concern; those being phosphorous,
25 nitrogen and odor. In terms of phosphorous

1 management, there can be a high input of
2 phosphorous in soils in areas of high livestock
3 density, or with limited land base to sustain
4 livestock farms, and this can lead to leaching and
5 runoff of phosphorous into ground and surface
6 water, as well as loss of bound phosphorous in
7 soil with erosion.

8 This issue is important to address, to
9 protect the sensitive ecosystems that would be
10 thrown into an imbalance if it were not to be
11 addressed; to sustain or improve the future
12 productivity of the land; as well as to meet
13 Manitoba regulations restricting the level of
14 soluble phosphorous in the soil, thus restricting
15 the application rate of manure.

16 With nitrogen management we are
17 concerned with the volatilization of ammonia and
18 leaching of nitrogen into water supplies. This is
19 an important issue to address in order to protect
20 those groundwater supplies, as well as to
21 establish loading rates of nitrogen for different
22 soils to determine best management practices for
23 annual and perennial cropping systems, and again
24 to protect sensitive ecosystems and create
25 sustainable land management practices.

1 For the third issue of odor
2 management, this is mainly an issue just because
3 it causes a very poor perception and acceptance of
4 the livestock industry, especially the hog
5 industry. People tend to be concerned for their
6 health and safety, and as well as it is just an
7 unpleasant or nuisance problem. So it is
8 important to address this issue to, one, improve
9 public perception, and with increased perception,
10 you would increase acceptance of the industry, and
11 that would allow for expansion of it.

12 So, the MLMMI is interested in aiming
13 research at reducing environmental risk to ground
14 and surface water and soils, reducing the risk of
15 soil degradation, reducing odor and emissions,
16 producing valuable byproducts such as energy
17 compost and fertilizer, provided that they also
18 reduce odor and other undesirable emissions;
19 creating technologies that would be economically
20 feasible, and therefore, likely to be adopted and
21 applied within Manitoba, and as well technologies
22 that are likely to benefit Manitoba agriculture.

23 And just as sort of an introduction to
24 what we have done so far, there have been 192
25 applications for funding, 57 of which have been

1 approved. The MLMMI has contributed about
2 \$1.6 million towards funding those projects, and
3 in conjunction with other agencies and the project
4 performers themselves, there has been a total of
5 nearly \$4.5 million given to those approved
6 projects.

7 As a brief outline, those projects
8 sort of fall in the areas of odor abatement
9 technology, fertilizer value, infrastructure
10 acquisition, water quality and a few other
11 technology areas.

12 For a more detailed list, you probably
13 would be best to refer to our website at
14 manure.mb.ca.

15 So just to conclude, I would like to
16 reiterate a few key points that I made here in
17 this presentation, especially at the start; the
18 MLMMI was incorporated in 1998 to foster research
19 and enhance the sustainability of the livestock
20 sector. And our concern is that management
21 practices, regulations and guidelines be based on
22 good science. The commission has to take a
23 proactive role and sustained leadership in
24 addressing the research needs of the livestock
25 industry in regards to environmental stewardship.

1 And through programs like the MLMMI, the
2 government maintains a proactive role in an
3 environmental stewardship research.

4 The MLMMI has the appropriate
5 expertise and the means to explore scientific
6 solutions to these issues, and we have proven this
7 in the work that we have aided to date.

8 So with that, I would like to open it
9 for any questions.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Street.
11 You noted a number of research projects that you
12 have already -- that you have approved. Have
13 these been completed, some of them or all of them
14 or?

15 MS. STREET: Quite a few have been
16 completed to date. There are about I think four
17 still in progress.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Would the results of
19 some of this research be available to us to help
20 us in this review?

21 MS. STREET: Yes, all of the completed
22 projects, the final reports and the progress of
23 them are on our website sites at manure.mb.ca, and
24 we also have an overview of the projects in
25 progress. The only thing not listed there, of

1 course, is the final report.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any
3 questions? Thank you very much for your
4 presentation.

5 MS. STREET: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Chris Maxfield.

7 MR. MAXFIELD: My name is Chris
8 Maxfield. I'm a Winnipeg businessman and I'm
9 funded by me. I don't receive any money or salary
10 to do this. I have no connection -- I don't even
11 eat meat. I have no connection to the industry at
12 all except as a citizen.

13 I would like to thank the panel for
14 this opportunity to speak on behalf of the animals
15 who were used as the engine of this hog industry.
16 I'm aware that the purpose of my being here today
17 is to speak to the environmental sustainability of
18 the hog industry in Manitoba, and to hopefully
19 widen the scope of the upcoming hearings. My main
20 argument is that there is inadequate inspection
21 and enforcement of this animal industry. I'm
22 reluctant to use animal and industry in the same
23 sentence. There will, I hope, be many presenters
24 to this panel who will raise concerns about the
25 pollution of water and land from this industry.

1 While I share these concerns, I'm here today as an
2 animal rights activist. I want to speak for those
3 who do not have a voice, but are nevertheless
4 living, feeling sentient individual animals much
5 like your family pet.

6 I'm not some sentimental overemotional
7 animal lover. If that were the case, my argument
8 would be easy to dismiss. Rather I want an end to
9 the needless suffering and to the use of animals
10 in any way we please in order to maximize producer
11 profit. The ethics are askew is my argument, part
12 of my argument. The byproduct of this misery for
13 the animals is concerning. The pollution, workers
14 conditions, and the land and water degradation to
15 name a few.

16 But I'm here to bring up the subject
17 about which most people would rather not hear,
18 they don't want to know for the most part. The
19 daily immeasurable brutality this province
20 condones by its inaction. The scale of this
21 cruelty is frankly mind boggling, as I have found
22 out.

23 I want the forthcoming hearings to
24 take into account the fact that 4 and a half
25 million animals are born, raised and killed every

1 year in Manitoba. We can't take any more. Four
2 and a half million may not mean much to most
3 people. For example, you may know what a million
4 dollars would mean to you and your family, but you
5 would have no idea of what it looks like in
6 pennies, for example. It is just a figure.

7 Allow me to put it into a context that
8 many people might be able to relate to. If you
9 took the number of hogs produced annually in
10 Manitoba and placed them nose to tail, they would
11 stretch in an unbroken line from Winnipeg to
12 Thunder Bay. Can you imagine that? An unbroken
13 line of sows and boars beside the highway that
14 entire trip. It is surreal, really.

15 Well, I'm not done this trip, it isn't
16 over yet. You could go from Thunder Bay across
17 Ontario and across Quebec to St. John. Now think
18 about driving from Winnipeg to St. John with an
19 endless line of hogs beside the road the entire
20 time without break. Sorry to say this trip is not
21 over yet. You can turn around and head all the
22 way back to Winnipeg now. And that is still on
23 this annual four and a half million pigs, and that
24 is every year, year after year, without end for as
25 long as this industry is given permission to

1 continue in this province.

2 Well, about 90 per cent of the meat
3 from this industry is exported to other countries,
4 we can not unfortunately export all of the urine
5 and feces. It stays here. And speaking of waste,
6 a study out of the University of Western Ontario
7 estimates that each market weight pig, still
8 arguably a little kid when shot in the forehead at
9 age five or six months, each one poops or pees out
10 about one metric tonne of waste. In that bit of
11 visualization I hope I painted an okay picture
12 there, hopefully I have given you about this
13 endless stream of pigs.

14 Please now place in your mind,
15 2200 pounds of waste beside every one of those
16 hogs that lined up from Winnipeg to St. John and
17 back from St. John back to Winnipeg year in, year
18 out.

19 What are we doing?

20 Is there room for more? I guess
21 that's the reason that we are here today.

22 I want to be clear, I am an animal
23 rights activist. I fervently hope that the CEC
24 will take the welfare of these nurturing, curious
25 live animals into account. I want to be able to

1 present to the CEC in the future the unregulated
2 cruelty that happens every day relating to this so
3 called industry. I want to be able to bring the
4 unnecessary suffering of hogs in this province to
5 the attention of the CEC and the public.

6 The natural intelligence of pigs
7 surpasses that of dogs. They can be raised as
8 human companions and can be taught to do tricks,
9 just like Spot and Lassie. The high intelligence
10 of pigs must be taken into consideration when we
11 explore whether the conditions in which they are
12 raised is sustainable. Sorry, Mr. Hofer. You
13 have seen the sow stalls, wherever Penelope has
14 gone now. If an ordinary citizen of Manitoba who
15 kept dogs in similar conditions for their entire
16 lives, with psychological problems I'm guessing,
17 would be prosecuted for extreme cruelty, and the
18 general public would support or demand the most
19 extreme punishment, and rightly so in my opinion,
20 a hog producer keeps an animal of comparable
21 intelligence of a dog in the same manner and is
22 more likely to be rewarded with government
23 subsidies.

24 Piglets are castrated without
25 anesthetic, have their teeth clipped with pliers

1 and their tails cut off without anesthetic, all
2 because of the crowded conditions in the barns.

3 Mr. Hofer referred to a previous
4 speaker, and I might just address for a second,
5 Mr. Hofer's comments. The only reason that one
6 could argue that those sow stalls are there to
7 protect the sows is because of the crowded
8 conditions in which they are kept. I have
9 personally spoken with organic farmers who have
10 fenced fields who allow the pigs to run around.
11 The sows, when they are about to give birth, they
12 take off into a corner of the fenced enclosure,
13 cut down three foot high grass, make a bed and
14 have their piglets, and a few days later they come
15 back and join the group.

16 After enduring the conditions in the
17 factory hog barns, the condition pigs in Manitoba
18 have to endure in transportation are horrendous,
19 and of this I have personal knowledge, and I can
20 say that I have been an eye witness. Full grown
21 pigs are pulled from the top tier of transport
22 trucks face first to their deaths. I have seen
23 it. Stressed, non-ambulatory, meaning they can't
24 walk because they have been stressed so much in
25 either their upbringing, transportation or a

1 combination of both, are left in distress over
2 weekends in a dead pile outside without being
3 humanely euthanized. Living, feeling animals
4 become frozen to the sides of transports to die a
5 slow death during transport during winter, or
6 hypothermia in summer. I personally travel the
7 roads of Manitoba in my business. I am a benefit
8 consultant for anybody who cares. But the
9 distance that I travel I have seen the purple,
10 pink, red hogs frozen to the side of the
11 transports.

12 None of this is regulated or
13 inspected, and if somebody wants to argue that,
14 there is only one Maxfield in the book, you can
15 send me how it is regulated.

16 This is factory farming and only
17 factory farming, and this hog industry is allowed
18 to treat animals in this manner. These are but a
19 few examples of the wanton disregard for the
20 interest of these animals that I have discovered
21 in the hog industry. I want this panel and the
22 CEC panelists at the hearings in March to know
23 this; there is no one out in the country watching
24 what is going on. This government cannot even
25 tell us where all of the hog barns are, or what is

1 going on inside of them. It is under-regulated
2 and uninspected.

3 Is this kind of thing susceptible, is
4 it sustainable? I wish to argue before the CEC
5 this is most certainly not what Manitoba should be
6 allowing. If Manitoba were to hire and train an
7 adequate number of veterinarians and welfare
8 inspectors, it might question whether the
9 additional costs required to pay for all of these
10 people is sustainable. I want to be able to show
11 the CEC and the public what I and others who share
12 my concern for the animals used in this industry
13 have discovered out there. It tarnishes our
14 province, and it can not be sustained.

15 How is it that people can be outraged
16 and upset about rural puppy mills, but turn a
17 blind eye to millions of animals every year who
18 are just as intelligent as dogs, who care for
19 their little ones and enjoy being petted as much
20 as cats and dogs? Yes, I have pet a pig. I'm up
21 front there with that. It is because people don't
22 know what is going on. Why can't we see inside of
23 the barns that have the sow stalls? There is only
24 one Maxfield in the book, so you can call me.

25 Why can't we see the transported pigs

1 at 30 below or 30 above? Why can we not see the
2 kill floor? Why can we not see anything related
3 to this industry? It is because the producers
4 profits and the interests of the animals are in
5 conflict. Yet somehow the agri business lobby
6 constantly assures us that only happy, well-cared
7 for animals can be productive. This government is
8 either going to have to admit to being complicit
9 in this type of torture and abuse of these animals
10 or hire an adequate number of veterinarians and
11 animal welfare inspectors to ensure that this does
12 not continue in our province. My hope is that
13 this panel finds my arguments here today
14 satisfactory to include in the hearings this
15 spring.

16 There is one final point I would like
17 to make. Last month the United Nations published
18 a report on livestock and the environment with a
19 stunning conclusion. And I will quote the U.N.
20 study.

21 "The livestock sector emerges as one
22 of the top two or three most
23 significant contributors to the most
24 serious environmental problems at
25 every scale from local to global."

1 It turns out that raising animals for
2 food is a primary cause of land degradation, air
3 pollution, water shortage, water pollution, loss
4 of biodiversity and not least of all, global
5 warming. You will no doubt hear about these
6 concerns during the scoping hearings from other
7 presenters or have heard such.

8 My reason for being here today is to
9 point out that the origin of all of these
10 environmental disasters, where it all comes from,
11 happens to start out as a curious, mischievous
12 little animal who, after enduring horrendous
13 conditions, at about six months of age is shot in
14 the forehead, hoisted by its back leg and stuck in
15 the jugular to bleed to death.

16 I want animal welfare inspection and
17 regulation to be increased. Thank you. Do I have
18 a second?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: A minute. Yes.

20 MR. MAXFIELD: I just want to address
21 this one per cent of phosphorous in Lake Winnipeg
22 that's been bandied about. That's not true. I've
23 tried to look for it and I wish, whoever -- Mr.
24 Hofer, if you have it, not to flog the horse here
25 or anything, but send it to me. Anybody. Send me

1 this one per cent thing. As much as I can tell it
2 is from like '96 to 2001 data, and it uses
3 averages. The average between my salary and
4 Gate's salary is like 14 billion. I don't make
5 \$14 billion. Averages don't always work. I would
6 like to know where that study is I guess, so that
7 I could possibly argue it at a future hearing.
8 But it has been bandied about by the media and I
9 have yet to see the study itself from which that
10 one per cent is often quoted. So thanks to the
11 panel. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
13 Mr. Maxfield. John Bannister.

14 MR. BANNISTER: Thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman and committee. My name is John
16 Bannister. I'm a livestock farmer, although I'm
17 not a hog producer. I feel the outcome of the
18 review you are about to carry out will have the
19 same impact on all livestock producers. As an
20 industry, we are well aware of the importance of a
21 sustainable environment for us and all who have to
22 access to clean water and a healthy province for
23 everyone to live in, and hopefully everyone takes
24 their part to achieve this.

25 The Clean Environment Commission has

1 called these scoping meetings to ensure the review
2 includes issues of importance to all Manitobans.
3 With due respect to the committee, may I offer
4 several points for their review. The review
5 should be Manitoba based using Manitoba scientific
6 data, as this is more relative to the Manitoba
7 issues. The University of Manitoba Faculty of
8 Agriculture and Food Sciences should be a primary
9 source of information. In Manitoba, I think there
10 are several different points where soil is
11 different, climate is definitely different. I
12 didn't realize until I came here that there was a
13 difference of 82 degrees between the hot and the
14 cold. And I think for this you need Manitoban
15 issues and Manitoba scientific evidence.

16 The scope of the review should be
17 based on the impact that the hog industry has on
18 the environment with relation to impact on soil,
19 water and air. Social and economic considerations
20 are too broad an issue to be relative to the
21 environment sustainability, in my opinion.

22 Phosphorous seems to be a hot topic at
23 the present time, and I hope that the Commission
24 will look at the phosphorous expert committee's
25 results and the regulations and proposed

1 regulations that the hog barns are at present
2 working with, especially the new barns that have
3 been erected in the last year or so. They have in
4 my opinion had to comply with some of the most
5 stringent environmental regulations in North
6 America.

7 I would hope that the review and final
8 report will be able to be completed in as short a
9 time frame as possible, so as to give the Manitoba
10 livestock industry the confidence to move forward
11 without the uncertainty that is hanging over it at
12 the present moment in time.

13 I would like to thank you for the
14 opportunity to give this presentation to you, and
15 wish you all of the best in your deliberations of
16 the review of the environmental sustainability of
17 the hog production industry in Manitoba. Thank
18 you.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Bannister. David Hedman.

21 MR. HEDMAN: My name is David Hedman.
22 I'm hear representing the OlyOp alliance. And I'm
23 not here because I want to be. I'm not a public
24 speaker and I'm nervous, and I'm a hockey player,
25 and I know what it feels like to be the last

1 player in the shoot out here.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: There is at least one
3 more, Mr. Hedman.

4 MR. HEDMAN: I stand corrected then.
5 I don't necessarily need to score a goal, just
6 make a point here.

7 This is a written submission I have
8 put in here. I represent the OlyOp alliance which
9 consists of the Concerned Citizens Coalition,
10 Animal Watch Manitoba, the Winnipeg Humane
11 society, Save our Seine, and the OlyOp Business
12 Group. The OlyOp Alliance has been granted status
13 and intervener funding for the OlyWest CEC
14 hearings. The CEC has limited our group to the
15 three follow topics which we can present on in
16 those hearings. These three topics are: Animal
17 welfare issues as they apply to transport, holding
18 and slaughter of animals directly related to the
19 proposed plant; odor issues as they relate to
20 residential developments within the area of
21 influence of the project, climate change and green
22 house gas emissions as they relate directly to the
23 operation of the physical plant.

24 We are trusting that the combined
25 intent of the OlyWest hearings and this hog

1 industry is to completely analyze the effects of
2 the entire hog production and processing industry,
3 and as such expect these hearings will be the
4 forum to highlight the other issues beyond the
5 three topics that we have been limited to in the
6 OlyWest hearings.

7 Following are some of the issues of
8 concern that I feel should be addressed. Effects
9 of odor on rural residents, mentally, physically
10 and socially.

11 Groundwater/well contamination risks
12 from land application of manure and leaking
13 storage facilities.

14 The effect of increased livestock
15 operations on greenhouse gas emissions.

16 All animal welfare issues beyond the
17 scope laid out in the OlyWest hearings.

18 The effects of the sub therapeutic use
19 of antibiotics and the rise of antibiotic
20 resistant bacteria.

21 Rural citizen's rights versus
22 municipal/provincial laws as they relate to the
23 governance of new and existing livestock
24 operations.

25 The reasons behind the level of social

1 discord which is unique to the hog industry. Why
2 is no other agricultural industry generating so
3 much public opposition and contentiousness? And
4 that's something that everyone should think about;
5 if this isn't a matter of just people ganging up
6 on a profitable industry and saying we are jealous
7 these guys are so profitable, let's go after them.
8 That's not the case here.

9 Explanation of the approval of a
10 second shift licence for Maple Leaf Brandon prior
11 to the outcome of the hog industry review. It
12 should be noted that the hog industry review was
13 originally recommended by the CEC as a requirement
14 for Maple Leaf's first licence.

15 Examine the levels of complaints and
16 enforcement and fines as they relate to the hog
17 population ten years ago and at present. Has the
18 level of enforcement and inspection increased
19 proportionately with the number and size of ILO's
20 in Manitoba?

21 Lastly, there are presently 9 million
22 hogs in Manitoba in approximate terms. If the CEC
23 determines that there are absolutely no negative
24 impacts from these factory farms, then the
25 industry could be considered sustainable and could

1 be allowed unlimited expansion. Conversely, if it
2 is determined that negative impacts exist and a
3 limit needs to be imposed, what is this limit? Is
4 it 10 million, is it 12 million or is it 15? This
5 limit should be established before it is exceeded.

6 A couple of other points. One was
7 made that manure is a valuable resource, and needs
8 to be applied to the crops. I'm not sure I
9 disagree with that. I see that as a byproduct, a
10 waste byproduct that unfortunately has to be
11 disposed of year in and year out, day in day out,
12 rain or shine, winter, summer, and as such there
13 is a motivation there to overuse it, or simply to
14 get rid of it, which wouldn't be the case of
15 commercial fertilizers which, of course, are very
16 expensive and I'm sure that the people buying it
17 would take utmost care to only apply as much as
18 they need.

19 In the end of all of this, I think
20 that everyone in this room, at least my opinion is
21 that the reason we are all here is because the
22 OlyWest plant came to Winnipeg and decided to
23 locate where they did. Maybe if the clock could
24 be turned back and the proponents had the
25 opportunity to relocate their plant, knowing the

1 scrutiny they would bring on their industry, I'm
2 guessing they may have done that. It is too bad
3 we can't turn back that clock but, you know, maybe
4 this in one way is a good thing, because maybe it
5 is going to take some steps towards the future and
6 the public scrutiny may help to ensure that things
7 are done in a sustainable manner. And that's it.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hedman.
9 We have one addition to our printed agenda.
10 Mr. Garry Tolton. If anybody else wishes to make
11 a presentation this afternoon, please indicate to
12 Cathy at the back of the room.

13 MR. TOLTON: My name is Garry Tolton,
14 I'm a hog producer from western Manitoba and also
15 am a director on the Manitoba Pork Council. I
16 would like to thank Mr. Sargeant and the
17 Commission for allowing me to talk this afternoon.
18 And I didn't have a prepared statement because I
19 didn't know if there would be time. And it was
20 really in the last two to three weeks that I began
21 to realize the hardship it is putting on some of
22 the producers in my area.

23 Last week I actually attended what you
24 may not know it is called AG days in Brandon,
25 where you go and look at all the nice expensive

1 tractors you can't afford. I went over there, but
2 hog producers kept telling me about some of the
3 problems that were happening because of this
4 pause, and the need for it to be effective, but to
5 be relatively done in a manner that will be
6 effectively done quickly so that they can move on
7 with their industries.

8 I don't think any of those producers
9 are really against looking at the environment,
10 because they are mostly family producers. They
11 live fairly close to their operations. They are
12 not going to jeopardize themselves and their
13 families. And by saying that I don't pick on any
14 size of an operation, as Ben spoke today, he is
15 definitely a family operation. He has 20 families
16 at his place. Other producers, maybe three or
17 four. In the end we are almost all family
18 producers. We wouldn't do anything to jeopardize
19 ourselves and we would like to move on.

20 So, some of the problems happening,
21 one producer was telling me that he has one person
22 that buys weanlings from him that's going to
23 retire this year. That's what happens after we
24 raise pigs for 30 years, we decide we need a
25 vacation and will do something different. Because

1 of the pause, he now has to find somebody in
2 production that wants to buy his weanlings. In
3 other words, he has to find somebody who has lost
4 somebody. He can't go and build a biotech, he
5 always thought as his family grew up he could move
6 on, he could put up some biotechs or he could do
7 something and feed some of these pigs. Can't do
8 that anymore. That's not allowed until this
9 hearing is over. So his option is probably going
10 to be either hopefully find somebody, and as it
11 gets known you don't have somebody out there
12 buying your product and you have a product to
13 sell, and it keeps coming, as long as those sows
14 are having babies that product is there to move,
15 you are in a little bit of a possibly blackmail,
16 I'm not going to give you the market price. Not
17 very pretty.

18 The other option of course is to begin
19 to slow down your barn. As you slow down that
20 facility, it becomes less economical to do so. I
21 don't really think the Premier or anybody that put
22 this ban on wants to explain to his bank manager
23 why for the next year or two years, he is going to
24 have a 30 per cent reduction in production.

25 So, we have to move on with it. And

1 there are numerous cases of that starting to show
2 up. And November 8th wasn't very long ago. So we
3 know that this process will take a while. So
4 that's why I'm asking, let's keep it focused,
5 let's keep it focused on the environment, look at
6 manure storage, look at manure spreading, look at
7 nutrient management, but don't get off on doing
8 other things such as the animal welfare,
9 economics, sustainability, just stay with the
10 environment because I'm sure that our bankers will
11 look at the economic sustainability for the
12 average family farm. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Tolton.
14 Lindy Clubb.

15 MS. CLUBB: Hi, my name is Lindy
16 Clubb, I'm a spokesperson for a small group of
17 people who organized into the Wolf Creek
18 Conservation Group. I have a summer home near
19 Sandy Lake, and it is on the, very close to the
20 escarpment of Riding Mountain. Although I live in
21 Winnipeg for half the year, I don't consider
22 myself an urban person, and I'm speaking to the
23 rural area right now.

24 We had a situation a couple of years
25 ago with a hog barn coming into an area with a

1 high water table on the Menzie Road. We spent the
2 next two years fighting with our local municipal
3 people about having this hog barn on the Menzie
4 Road. We didn't want it because there was fish
5 farming, organic farming, six farms that were at
6 issue that would be jeopardized by this operation,
7 and then the market crumbled a little bit for hogs
8 and the hog barn didn't go in, which is good
9 because I would have given up my summer home and
10 farm house and left the area as a consequence.

11 We are talking about 20 people who
12 would have left the area had this hog barn gone
13 in. Because of that, I'm asking the Commission to
14 seriously consider opening up and expanding the
15 scope of the hearings to include social effects.
16 The social effects in our area had environmental
17 effects in that the six families that owned the
18 farms in the area adjacent to where the hog barn
19 was proposed to go in were already manufacturing
20 things like honey and raising fish, as I
21 mentioned, and raising organics crops. And these
22 farms would have been displaced. So I think it is
23 a natural fit, because they expected environmental
24 contamination and their lives would have been
25 affected, to have social issues considered during

1 the course of these hearings so that you can make
2 effective recommendations to our Provincial
3 Government about the lives and the livelihoods of
4 the people that are at issue here, just as much as
5 the hog barns' livelihoods are at issue, so are
6 ours in multiple ways. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Clubb, before you
8 leave, could you expand a little bit on how the
9 introduction of a hog barn into that particular
10 area would have affected all of these other people
11 and their operations?

12 MS. CLUBB: Well, Mr. Sargeant, you
13 know how I go on and on, this may be opening up
14 a -- don't ask questions, I give long answers.

15 I can give you a brief example. The
16 hog barn was located in hilly land with a very
17 high water table which is a real concern for us.
18 So we were worried immediately about pollution of
19 the water table. That was carried out to the
20 people in Brandon who monitor placements of hog
21 barns, and to our horror we realized that the
22 province didn't have information about existing
23 intermittent water streams near there. We call
24 ourselves Wolf Creek Conservation because there
25 was a stream in the area that our maps and the

1 people who do reconnaissance in Manitoba didn't
2 know about because they don't live in the area, so
3 we were very concerned about Wolf Creek being
4 contaminated. It was running through the spread
5 fields that were a part of the project's planning.
6 And that creek ran into and fed the Little
7 Saskatchewan River, which you probably know is a
8 candidate now for water shed protection efforts
9 because its water quality is going downhill.

10 So the people that have lived there,
11 some of them are on 100 year farms, knew a lot
12 more about the Menzie Road area than I did. I
13 learned from them over the course of the two
14 years. But that was the most immediate concern.

15 The other concern was the drawing down
16 of the water table in the area because hog barns
17 use incredible amounts of water. That was the
18 other thing that I would like the Commission to
19 take a look at in the future to include in their
20 scope, it is the use of water for the barns. Not
21 just the release of water that's contaminated
22 because the water turns into toxic waste the
23 second it hits the hogs, but there are enormous
24 amounts of water that are required locally from
25 both surface and ground water supplies to keep the

1 hog barns going. So, it was mainly contamination.
2 And then, you know, surprisingly
3 people were concerned about odor, they thought
4 that might be an issue. The farm that was going
5 to raise the hogs was in close proximity to three
6 of the family farms that the people grouped
7 together to oppose. So they were very concerned
8 since their lives were lead virtually out of doors
9 in the summer season, that odor would affect their
10 quality of life. And then there were other
11 issues, but I won't go on about that. So it was
12 mainly water and odor.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Are there
14 any other people here who would like to make a
15 presentation this afternoon? We will take what
16 I'm going to call an informal adjournment then.
17 We will remain here until five o'clock, which is
18 the time we advertised we would be here. If
19 anybody else shows up between now and then and
20 wishes to make a presentation, the panel will hear
21 them out. If nobody else does show up, then we
22 won't be hearing anything between now and five
23 o'clock. We will be reconvening at 7:00 o'clock.
24 We have at least four people that have indicated
25 they wished to make presentations after dinner.

1 Thank you.

2 (Proceedings recessed at 3:45 p.m. and reconvened
3 at 7:00 p.m.)

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I call the
5 session to order for the evening. We have about a
6 half dozen people who have indicated they wish to
7 make presentations this evening, so we will get on
8 with business. Mr. David Rolfe from Keystone
9 Agricultural.

10 MR.ROLFE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
11 would first like to do a little bit of an
12 introduction as to who Keystone Agricultural is.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: For the record could
14 you introduce yourself first?

15 MR.ROLFE: My name is David Rolfe.
16 I'm president of Keystone Agricultural Producers
17 in Manitoba. Our organization represents
18 approximately 5,000 farm families all across
19 Manitoba. On behalf of Manitoba's farm families,
20 I am pleased to have the opportunity to present to
21 the Clean Environment Commission on an issue that
22 is likely to be have an impact on how we farm in
23 this province in the future.

24 Keystone Agricultural producers is the
25 largest general farm policy organization in

1 Manitoba. My role is to represent and promote the
2 interest of Manitoba farm families, and it is with
3 this perspective in mind that I'm here today.

4 One of the issues I would like to
5 raise, and it is certainly not in the
6 presentation, Mr. Chairman, is the issue of there
7 being no scoping meeting in western Manitoba. And
8 I'm sure that's been brought to your attention
9 before. But there certainly is a vibrant
10 livestock industry in western Manitoba and
11 certainly an expanding, or up until the pause, an
12 expanding hog industry in western Manitoba. And
13 I'm a little surprised there isn't a scoping
14 meeting out in that part of the province.

15 The rest of my presentation will focus
16 on the issue at hand. As the Clean Environment
17 Commission begins its review of the hog industry
18 environmental sustainability, it is important that
19 we understand the background of this process. The
20 move to a complete freeze on new and expanding hog
21 barn development came as a complete surprise to
22 Keystone Agricultural Producers, to the hog
23 industry and to other agricultural stakeholders.
24 This was despite our ongoing negotiations with the
25 department for water stewardship to find practical

1 and achievable environmental results through what
2 has now become a proposed nutrient management
3 regulation. We are concerned that this process
4 has been initiated without any warning,
5 particularly because it sends a signal of
6 uncertainty in the agricultural sector to farmers,
7 agri-businesses and future investors in our
8 industry.

9 The implications for agriculture;
10 other than to show our support for hog farmers in
11 the province you may wonder why KAP is here today.
12 After all, hog production is only one sector of
13 agriculture in our province. Not all farmers are
14 hog farmers. Many farmers that we represent may
15 not even be livestock farmers. The reason we are
16 here is because farmers in general are concerned
17 about this process. Long before the Clean
18 Environment Commission was appointed to review the
19 environmental sustainability of the hog industry,
20 farmers felt unfairly targeted by increasing
21 environmental scrutiny and regulation.

22 We have said that we will do our part,
23 as an industry, as long as other sectors are
24 expected to do the same. The continued focus on
25 the agricultural sector leaves the perception with

1 the public that we are the whole problem and
2 that's clearly not the case. The ban on hog barn
3 development has done more damage by reinforcing
4 this stereotype. All farmers are concerned
5 because we are left to wonder who is next?

6 If we wish to discuss and review the
7 environmental performance of the hog industry or
8 of agriculture as a whole, farmers are ready to
9 step up to the plate at any time. We take pride
10 in our role as stewards of the land and the vast
11 majority are doing all that they can to protect
12 our natural resources.

13 However to completely put a stop to
14 one sector of agriculture as part of the review,
15 with no prior notice given, is a great concern to
16 hog producers and all Manitoba farmers. Keystone
17 Agricultural Producers is also concerned about the
18 ripple effect that this review and the freeze on
19 development will have for other industries in
20 Manitoba. The renewable fuels industry and other
21 value added initiatives also figure livestock
22 operations into their business plans, so the
23 impact may be unexpectedly far reaching.

24 It is with all of these issues in mind
25 that we present the following recommendations for

1 the Clean Environment Commission's review process.

2 And the recommendations are as follows:

3 The focus should be on environmental
4 sustainability and the Clean Environment
5 Commission has been directed to review the
6 environmental sustainability of the hog industry,
7 and KAP believes it is critical that this process
8 remain focused on this issue. Environmental
9 sustainability touches on a wide array of issues
10 and we believe it will provide more than enough
11 data for fair and timely consideration.

12 The risk is that this process will
13 become bogged down in a far reaching review of the
14 hog sector that extends beyond what the department
15 of water stewardship had asked for and possibly to
16 the neglect of environmental issues.

17 As such, KAP endorses the definition
18 of environmental sustainability as previously
19 presented to the Clean Environment Commission by
20 the Manitoba Pork Council. We also support their
21 identification of issues that are within and
22 outside of the scope of this review.

23 To summarize, we believe that the
24 following topics are appropriate for the Clean
25 Environment Commission Review. For example, water

1 quality and water management; manure storage;
2 nutrient management; odor management; barn siting;
3 and environmental research relating to the hog
4 industry; existing practices undertaken by farmers
5 and the industry; regulation in other
6 jurisdictions; and environmental enforcement.

7 While the following issues are
8 important in the hog sector and for all of
9 agriculture, we do not believe that they fall
10 under the classification of environmental
11 sustainability and should be excluded from the
12 review. Those issues include animal welfare;
13 market economics; industry structure; food safety
14 and traceability; rations and medications; disease
15 management; property valuation; and rural
16 community development.

17 The focus should be on science and
18 public input will be an important component of
19 this review. It is also critical that public
20 perceptions are based on science and facts. As
21 more Manitobans live away from the farms that
22 produce their food, there tends to be a
23 significant disconnect between what they believe
24 happens on farms, and what actually does happen on
25 farms. As a result, it will be important for the

1 Clean Environment Commission to assess whether the
2 opinions and positions expressed in the
3 forthcoming hearings are supported by credible
4 sources or based simply on emotion.

5 The Clean Environment Commission will
6 also have to give appropriate weight and
7 consideration to independent scientific research.
8 Above all, the relevance of all research and
9 opinion presented to the Clean Environment
10 Commission must be weighed against its practical
11 application within Manitoba.

12 The focus on time, timing is
13 everything in agriculture, and this review is no
14 exception. While we respect and encourage the
15 Clean Environment Commission to gather appropriate
16 information and conduct a thorough review of the
17 hog industry's environmental sustainability, we
18 also ask that it be done as quickly and
19 efficiently as possible. As this process
20 lengthens, it will create ongoing hardship and
21 uncertainty for farmers in the agricultural sector
22 in Manitoba. Farmers cannot afford for this
23 review to extend past a reasonable time, and we
24 ask that the Clean Environment Commission take
25 this into consideration when planning its

1 approach.

2 In closing, on behalf of the Keystone
3 Agricultural Producers and the farm families that
4 we represent, I wish to thank you for the
5 opportunity to present what we believe should
6 constitute a review of the hog sector's
7 environmental sustainability. We take our role as
8 land managers seriously, and in addition to the
9 voluntary initiatives that we undertake, there are
10 also a wide range of programs and regulations that
11 compel hog farmers and all farmers to protect our
12 natural resources.

13 We encourage the Clean Environment
14 Commission to consider our key recommendations
15 relating to the focus of this review, and KAP
16 believes that this process must consider only
17 issues relating to environmental sustainability,
18 with the appropriate weight given to independent
19 scientific data, and do so in a timely way to
20 minimize the impact on Manitoba's farmers. Thank
21 you very much for the opportunity.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Rolfe.
23 I would just like to briefly respond to your
24 opening comment about no scoping meeting in
25 Brandon. When we first looked at where to hold

1 the scoping meetings, we looked at a map of hog
2 barns around Manitoba and noted there were very
3 few, only a handful situated relatively close to
4 the City of Brandon. We noted that there is quite
5 a concentration in the Killarney/Pilot Mound area,
6 and we wanted to hold the third meeting in that
7 location. However, on relatively short notice we
8 were unable to find a space that was available to
9 hold the meeting in. There were a number of
10 letters sent to the minister, CC copies were sent
11 to me, asking us to consider holding a meeting in
12 Brandon. However, only one of them came from a
13 person living in Brandon, all of the rest were
14 from Winnipeg or to the east of Winnipeg actually.
15 During the main round of our meetings, there will
16 be at least five days of hearings in western
17 Manitoba, including two days in the City of
18 Brandon.

19 MR.ROLFE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
20 I'm encouraged to hear that.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions of
22 Mr. Rolfe? Thank you, sir. Melissa Hotain.

23 MS. HOTAIN: Good evening. My name is
24 Melissa Hotain, and I am the Environment Policy
25 Analyst for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. On

1 behalf of Grand Chief Ron Evans, I extend
2 greetings and thank you for the opportunity to
3 present to you this evening some issues that need
4 to be considered in your review of the hog
5 production industry.

6 Very briefly, the Assembly of Manitoba
7 Chiefs is a political organization representing
8 the 64 First Nations in Manitoba. The AMC works
9 to protect our First Nation governments from
10 further encroachment and to prevent any action by
11 any nation, group, jurisdiction or government from
12 violating the integrity and freedoms of self
13 determination and from violating individual and
14 collective rights of First Nations.

15 My presentation this evening focuses
16 on the concept of meaningful consultation, water
17 quality and the lack of process in the existing
18 regulations for First Nations review or feedback
19 on activities that affect First Nations lands and
20 traditional territories.

21 The concept of consultation is one
22 that's increasingly on the forefront of First
23 Nations regionally and nationally. History has
24 shown a lack of First Nation participation or
25 decision making on issues that affect lands,

1 environment and traditional territories. The
2 issue of meaningful consultation and accommodation
3 is a major concern for First Nations due to the
4 increasing levels of industry, exploration,
5 extraction and natural resource development within
6 the territories.

7 Currently only the Federal government
8 has an obligation to engage First Nations in
9 consultation on issues that have potential to
10 impact Aboriginal treaty rights guaranteed under
11 section 35 of the Constitution Act. This is not
12 extended to the Provincial government, but one
13 that has been recognized by the Supreme Court of
14 Canada through recent court cases, where for the
15 first time the Supreme Court of Canada considered
16 governments' duty to consult when making land and
17 resource use decisions that could affect
18 Aboriginal rights and title.

19 In November 2004, the Supreme Court of
20 Canada released its decisions in the Haida and
21 Taku River cases which dealt with Aboriginal
22 consultation and accommodation obligations
23 relating to resource development. The two
24 decisions have provided greater clarity regarding
25 the role and responsibilities of government

1 Aboriginal groups and industry in consultations
2 with Aboriginal communities and accommodation of
3 Aboriginal concerns.

4 In the Haida Nation case, the Supreme
5 Court held that asserted Aboriginal rights can
6 trigger government's obligation to consult. The
7 court said that the duty to consult arises when
8 government knows about, or ought to know about,
9 the potential existence of an Aboriginal right or
10 title and contemplates a decision that might
11 adversely affect it. It is not necessary for an
12 Aboriginal group to prove the legal existence of
13 its rights before the duty arises. The court held
14 that consultation obligations may be triggered by
15 decisions ranging from the granting of tenures and
16 project approvals, to permitting and licensing
17 decisions.

18 Thus this issue becomes our first
19 recommendation for the Clean Environment
20 Commission review process; that the Provincial
21 Government works with First Nations to ensure that
22 a formal process is created to achieve meaningful
23 consultation in any current or proposed
24 developments on First Nations lands or traditional
25 territories. There could be several advantages to

1 ensuring proper consultation and accommodation and
2 some of them are: A decrease in the likelihood of
3 regulatory and land use approvals being challenged
4 by communities who haven't been adequately
5 informed or accommodated with respect to their
6 concerns; sufficient information provided to
7 communities in a timely manner so that they have
8 an opportunity to consider the information and
9 develop a position; the community having the
10 opportunity to express its interest and concerns
11 with serious consideration being given to their
12 concerns.

13 A review of the existing regulations
14 with respect to the hog barn development shows it
15 does not provide a forum for consultation with
16 First Nations when First Nations lands or people
17 could be impacted. The recent proposed
18 development of a hog barn adjacent to the Swan
19 Lake First Nation posed serious concerns to source
20 water and air quality. The First Nation was not
21 considered in the technical review process with
22 respect to the proximity of their residences and
23 their water aquifer, which is their sole source of
24 water.

25 The AMC recommends that the Clean

1 Environment Commission take into account this
2 situation in their investigation. That there must
3 be accommodation for meaningful consultation with
4 affected First Nations into the existing
5 regulations.

6 The last area we wish to focus on is
7 the issue of water and water quality. First
8 Nations of Canada have considerable right to
9 water, including the right to quality of water.
10 These rights have never been ceded through
11 treaties with the British or Canadian Crown, and
12 thus are retained and held by Indigenous
13 communities. Treaties, which occupy a significant
14 part of the historical relationship between
15 Europeans and First Nations in Canada, can be
16 understood as agreements dealing with inherent
17 rights. The treaties do not outline any intention
18 to extinguish indigenous inherent water rights.
19 Indigenous water rights can be described as
20 relating to First Nations title or ownership of
21 land, and also to the exercise of Aboriginal
22 treaty rights. Indigenous people in Canada have
23 interest in both the land that they occupy and
24 water they use. Native land title in Canada
25 includes an interest in water, as was stated by

1 the Supreme Court of Canada in Delgamuuk.

2 Our last recommendation is that First
3 Nations must be consulted and provided full
4 information on any future hog development or
5 project that stands to negatively affect the
6 source water of First Nations, as was what would
7 have happened with Swan Lake. The purity of water
8 is crucial to the health, well-being and
9 livelihood of our people.

10 To conclude, the issues expressed this
11 evening are a short synopsis of the concerns of
12 the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs that must be
13 considered by the Clean Environment Commission.

14 I thank you for the opportunity to
15 present this evening.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think we
17 are going to have to talk with you further perhaps
18 in a different forum, because there are a number
19 of issues that you raise here. And I think rather
20 than debate them in this forum this evening, or
21 even discuss them, I think we have to meet and
22 talk a bit about where our process fits in with
23 this duty to consult. So I think rather than get
24 into that tonight, and I have to think about it a
25 bit more as well, I think we have to talk, though.

1 MS. HOTAIN: Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for coming
3 tonight. Next on our agenda is Anne Tennier and
4 Scott Dick.

5 MS. TENNIER: Good evening, Mr.
6 Chairman and members of the Commission. My name
7 Anne Tennier and I am vice president of
8 environmental affairs for Maple Leaf Foods. In
9 that capacity, I'm responsible for the company's
10 environmental performance across its network of
11 more than 100 manufacturing facilities,
12 distribution centres, and hog operations across
13 Canada and the United States and Britain. I'm a
14 register professional engineer in Ontario and
15 Alberta. With me as well, sitting in the front
16 row, is Scott Dick, manager of land and nutrient
17 resources at Elite Swine, which is the hog
18 production arm of Maple Leaf Foods.

19 On behalf of Maple Leaf, we thank you
20 for this opportunity to present some issues that
21 we feel the Commission should address at its
22 upcoming deliberations into the sustainability of
23 the hog industry in Manitoba.

24 Our first recommendation is that the
25 Commission should determine the characteristics

1 that make Manitoba well suited to an economically
2 and environmentally sustainable hog industry.
3 That is, why has the hog industry shown more
4 growth in Manitoba in the past ten years than any
5 other province? We suggest the following factors
6 be examined. Manitoba's low density of people to
7 hogs compared to other jurisdictions; our
8 favorable climate for herd health; the low
9 environmental risk due to our landscape and
10 climate, and the capacity of our soils to retain
11 and use nitrogen and phosphorous; our geographical
12 relation to abundant feed supply; and the ready
13 market that the hog industry presents for Manitoba
14 grain producers, and how it helps address
15 Manitoba's competitive disadvantage when shipping
16 grain.

17 We believe you can approach this
18 investigation by seeking information from the
19 industry and from academics. The George Morris
20 Centre, which is a charitable, not for profit
21 independent agri-food think tank based in Guelph,
22 Ontario, would be a valuable resource to the
23 Commission. It provided a report on this topic in
24 1999, and this report was a key driver in bringing
25 Maple Leaf processing plant to Brandon.

1 Mr. Chairman, we believe that one of
2 the main ways that Manitoba will ensure
3 environmental sustainability of the hog industry
4 is through sound and scientific manure planning
5 done by trained and qualified professionals.

6 This brings us to the second topic
7 that we propose you consider, that is,
8 professional standards for manure management
9 planners.

10 People who prepare a manure management
11 plan on behalf of a producer are required by
12 regulation to meet certain criteria. You can
13 prepare a third party plan only if you are a
14 member in good standing with the Manitoba
15 Institute of Agrologists, or have the designation
16 of Certified Crop Advisor from the American
17 Society of Agronomy, prairie branch, and have
18 completed a rigorous and specialized course
19 offered by the Assiniboine Community College. The
20 designation and training is assurance that
21 planners have learned about soil maps,
22 agricultural capability ratings, surface and sub
23 surface hydrology, slope and various other
24 environmental risks, and how all of these things
25 interact with nutrient management practices.

1 The Commission should understand the
2 requirements of both the Manitoba Institute of
3 Agrologists and Certified Crop Advisor
4 designations. This should include their code of
5 ethics, entrance requirements, and ongoing
6 education and practice criteria. The Commission
7 should also understand the depth and rigor of the
8 course offered by the Assiniboine Community
9 College. This information can readily be obtained
10 by asking representatives from these three bodies
11 to present to the Commission. An explanation of
12 the complexity and detail that goes into
13 preparation of Manure Management plans by
14 qualified professionals should provide the
15 Commission with a good understanding of the
16 diligence and care taken in preparing such plans.

17 The third issue we suggest that you
18 address is the impact of current regulations on
19 hog producers. As you know, Manitoba has a
20 livestock Manure Management and Mortalities
21 Regulation, which has legislated since 1998 how
22 manure management is carried out on livestock
23 farms. Since then, various amendments have been
24 adopted to further regulate the industry.

25 The Commission needs to consider how

1 this regulation has evolved over the past eight
2 years, and its impact on Manitoba farms.
3 Highlights from the regulation are as follows: In
4 1998, nitrogen residual limits were set for all
5 land receiving manure along with the requirement
6 that farms over 400 animal units file annual
7 manure management plans with Manitoba
8 Conservation. In 2004, nitrogen residual limits
9 were further refined by agricultural capability
10 classes of soil. And the threshold for annual
11 filing dropped to 300 animal units. Then last
12 year the regulation was again amended to limit
13 phosphorous applications to the land. These
14 regulations have both benefits and costs
15 associated with them, and we feel it is essential
16 that the Commission understand how farmers are
17 affected when they must adapt their operations to
18 fit new environmental rules.

19 It is also important for the
20 Commission to understand how our made in Manitoba
21 regulation differs from other jurisdictions. Here
22 are some points to consider: Manitoba is the only
23 jurisdiction in Canada to require annual filing of
24 manure management plans and annual filing of soil
25 tests. Manitoba is the only jurisdiction in

1 Canada that requires annual source water sampling.
2 We are the only Canadian jurisdiction to do active
3 soil test audits. And we are only the third
4 province in Canada to implement phosphorous
5 regulations.

6 As part of this discussion on
7 regulations, the Clean Environment Commission
8 should look at ways to ensure that environmental
9 policies and regulations are based on sound
10 science. For example, we recently saw how science
11 led the way in developing phosphorous regulations
12 through the phosphorous expert committee, which
13 used fact based science to make objective
14 recommendations to the Minister of Conservation.
15 As an aside, it is important to recognize that
16 since the phosphorous regulations only recently
17 came into force, the province's natural
18 environment has yet to see the benefit to
19 Manitoba's waterways that the implementation of
20 this regulation will bring. This is an important
21 consideration, given that one of the Commission's
22 mandates in this process is to consider various
23 options and make recommendations on any
24 improvements that may be necessary to provide for
25 the environmental sustainability of hog production

1 in Manitoba. We believe that current regulations
2 should be implemented and allowed to take effect
3 before further regulation or other regulatory
4 measures are considered. The Clean Environment
5 Commission may also wish to look at current
6 practices at the municipal level that affect
7 producers and often seem to ignore both scientific
8 fact and rigorous provincial regulations and
9 programs.

10 Finally, we believe it is beneficial
11 for the Commission to look at other policy tools
12 besides regulation, such as education, tax
13 incentives and financial assistance programs. For
14 example, the province of Quebec has shown
15 leadership in financial incentive programs that
16 will result in improvements in environmental
17 protection. These are important compliments to
18 regulation and stimulating improved environmental
19 behaviour and technological innovation.

20 How do we suggest that you approach
21 this investigation? Understand how the livestock
22 manure management and mortalities regulations has
23 changed over the past eight years by asking
24 Manitoba Conservation to give a detailed report on
25 the regulation. Ask producers to speak on how

1 this regulation has affected their farms, both
2 from an environmental and economic standpoint.
3 Consider the University of Manitoba's recently
4 completed study on the economic impact of the new
5 phosphorous regulation. And finally, consider
6 approaches used by other jurisdictions in the
7 areas of education and economic based incentives
8 for hog producers.

9 Our fourth and last suggestion is that
10 the Commission look at current and best practices
11 for manure management in Manitoba and elsewhere.
12 What are the leaders in our industry doing to
13 properly manage manure and protect the
14 environment? What are leaders in other Canadian
15 and U.S. jurisdictions doing? This study would
16 help the Commission determine whether Manitoba's
17 existing environmental protection measures
18 pertaining to manure management are adequate.

19 Currently there is a broad spectrum of
20 practices across jurisdictions, so it's important
21 that the best practices that are economically
22 achievable and environmentally sustainable be
23 adopted. For example, at Elite Swine Operations
24 we are using satellite and other aerial imagery
25 and global positioning systems to know precisely

1 on what land to apply manure, how much to apply
2 and where to maintain setbacks from waterways.
3 Our trained manure applicators have computers on
4 their tractors that not only map where the manure
5 should be applied, but also store data such as the
6 date of application, the rate of application,
7 field conditions and so on. We are also now
8 making use of tractors that use GPS and drive
9 themselves. This results in less overlap and more
10 precise application of nutrients on to the field.

11 It would also be valuable for the
12 Commission to understand the best practices of
13 jurisdictions that compete with Manitoba hog
14 producers in order to ensure a level economic
15 playing field. We suggest that you look at
16 Alberta, Ontario and Minnesota, as these
17 jurisdictions are all quite actively conducting
18 research into manure management. We suggest that
19 you also look at North Dakota, since that state is
20 one of the few American jurisdictions with both
21 phosphorous and nitrogen guidelines, and is a
22 primary contributor to the phosphorous in Manitoba
23 waterways.

24 You may also wish to look at
25 alternative technologies in use elsewhere, such as

1 digesters being introduced in Europe, and the
2 production of energy from manure at very large
3 scale hog producers in the U.S. southwest.

4 If the commission does decide to look
5 at alternative technologies elsewhere, it is
6 important that you understand that these projects
7 are tied to hog density in the case of Europe, and
8 scale in the case of the U.S. These factors of
9 density and scale, along with weather and
10 geography, must be kept in mind, as economics play
11 a very significant role in alternative
12 technologies.

13 How best to approach an investigation
14 into best practices? In order to understand how
15 Manitoba producers currently practice manure
16 management on their farms, a survey could be
17 developed and sent to 50 pork producers here in
18 the province. This list could be developed from
19 Manitoba Conservation's list of producers filing
20 manure management plans. To obtain information on
21 best management practices in other jurisdictions,
22 government publications and interviews of
23 Provincial and state officials from environmental
24 and agricultural departments should yield relevant
25 information.

1 You will then be in a position to
2 compare and contrast best practices in Manitoba
3 and elsewhere and recommend practices that are
4 relevant and well suited to Manitoba producers,
5 taking into account such factors as density,
6 scale, weather, geography and economics.

7 Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like
8 to provide our view on the Minister's terms of
9 reference. The minister has asked the Commission
10 to review the current environmental protection
11 measures now in place relating to hog production
12 in Manitoba in order to determine their
13 effectiveness for the purpose of managing hog
14 production in an environmentally sustainable
15 manner. In our view, the Commission should focus
16 on the effects of the hog industry on the natural
17 environment.

18 In reviewing efforts underway in other
19 jurisdictions, we encourage the Commission to
20 review those jurisdictions that would be relevant
21 to Manitoba, to the Manitoba context, in terms of
22 weather, geography, scale and density. In
23 considering options and making recommendations,
24 the Commission should ensure that any
25 recommendations that are made are science based

1 and economically feasible.

2 In reviewing contents of the Manitoba
3 Conservation report, we encourage the Commission
4 to focus their review on how the regulatory regime
5 addresses the issues identified in the report,
6 along with the adequacy of that regulatory scheme.

7 Finally, public feedback should be
8 focused on the matters set out in the terms of
9 reference.

10 Mr. Chairman, that concludes our
11 scoping presentation and recommendations. We
12 thank you for your consideration, and would be
13 pleased to answer any questions, if you have any.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I do have
15 one question, it is just a matter of
16 clarification. On the second page, second
17 paragraph under number 2, when you talk about the
18 certification for a manure management planner, you
19 say that the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists or
20 Certified Crop Advisor, and the course from
21 Assiniboine Community College; does the "and"
22 apply to both the agrologist and the crop advisor
23 or just to the crop advisor?

24 THE WITNESS: It is to both, sorry.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: You first have to have

1 one of the other designations and then take the
2 course at Assiniboine.

3 MS. TENNIER: Yes.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you
5 very much. Mr. Eising. Erik Eising.

6 MR. EISING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
7 and panel. My name is Erik Eising. I live in
8 Winnipeg. In 1980, I immigrated from the
9 Netherlands to Manitoba. I have been a livestock
10 producer for over ten years, and as such have
11 first hand experience in manure, manure handling
12 and manure application. And I consider manure a
13 valuable product, not a waste product. And I was
14 able to start my own farm nutrient recycling
15 program. I increased my show of fertility, I
16 increased my crop yields, and was able to decrease
17 my reliance on chemical fertilizers.

18 Words as sustainable and manure
19 planning, manure management were unheard of in the
20 80's, but what I was able to accomplish on my
21 operation was a reasonable -- to a reasonable
22 level a sustainable own farm nutrient recycling
23 program.

24 Fast forward to 2002. I was invited
25 to meet Dr. Diane Malley from PDK Projects here in

1 Winnipeg, and she introduced me to her research
2 she was doing on applying near infrared
3 spectroscopy in manure analysis. Her research was
4 based on the development of an instantaneous
5 manure analysis that would give the producer or
6 manure applicator an instantaneous readout of the
7 nutrient level of the manure that he or she was
8 applying to the field.

9 This initial meeting with Dr. Diane
10 Malley resulted in a partnership between myself
11 and her organization, where her strength is the
12 research and the technical know-how, together with
13 her husband, Dr. Phil Williams, on the near
14 infrared technology, and my strength as a
15 professional agrologist from the agricultural
16 side.

17 Dr. Diane Malley was unable to attend
18 this evening, and so I'm doing this presentation
19 also on behalf of Dr. Diane Malley.

20 This is to respond to the invitation
21 to identify and suggest issues relating to the
22 environmental sustainability of hog production in
23 Manitoba. The issues of our focus is ecologically
24 sustainable manure management and the development
25 of technology practices that enable this. It is

1 widely acknowledged that presently in Manitoba
2 most hog manure is not applied to agricultural
3 land in an ecologically sustainable manner. And
4 there are reasons for this, one is being the lack
5 of appropriate technology to enable either the
6 complete mixing of manure and lagoons to permit
7 accurate sampling for chemical analysis, and
8 furthermore to permit a uniform manure to be
9 delivered to the land, or the accurate and
10 continuous measurement of the highly variable
11 concentration of key nutrients in manure during
12 the complete pump out of a lagoon and the
13 application to land.

14 Some of the reasons that ecologically
15 sustainable manure management of hog manure in
16 Manitoba should be practiced are; number one, the
17 inventory of hogs in Manitoba in 2006 was around
18 3 million. Each adult hog is estimated to produce
19 as much fecal waste as three or four persons, or
20 an amount equivalent to that produced by
21 10 million people or more. Hog manure is rich in
22 both major and minor plant nutrients and organic
23 matter, and is consequently a value resource not a
24 waste. Providing nutrient loadings to the land
25 can be known by the agricultural producer, manure

1 has the potential to replace some of the costly
2 inorganic fertilizers, and avoid overall
3 over-application of nutrients.

4 Hog manure contains disproportionately
5 more phosphorous than nitrogen that is required
6 for plant growth. Until recently, manure
7 application was regulated on the basis of nitrogen
8 requirements of the crop, and did not consider the
9 phosphorous needs of, or removable by crops. This
10 approach has resulted in overapplication of
11 phosphorous and a buildup of phosphorous in the
12 soil in some locations. Together with other
13 sources of P, such as natural, urban, industrial,
14 non-livestock agricultural, non-hog livestock,
15 that from hog production contributes to
16 eutrophication of waterways and water bodies such
17 as Lake Winnipeg. Scientists estimate that P is
18 accumulating in the sediments of Lake Winnipeg at
19 the rate of 230 tonnes per year, a small amount
20 compared with that which flows through the lake
21 each year.

22 Phosphorous is essential to life, and
23 unlike the case for fossil fuels, there are no
24 substitutes. Like fossil fuels, the supply of
25 economically obtainable phosphorous on the globe

1 is limited. Given current management practices,
2 estimates are that known deposits will last only
3 another 61 years, according to one source, and 88
4 years according to another.

5 It is our suggestion that the panel
6 include consideration of new or emerging
7 technologies that can enable the ecologically
8 sustainable management of manure by the recycling
9 of the nutrients. Sophisticated technologies are
10 already used in manure management. For example,
11 the use of GPS/GIS, together with flow metres is
12 becoming standard for manure applicators. This
13 allows the mapping of the volume of manure, but
14 provides no information on the loading of
15 nutrients to the field. Presently the equivalent
16 for agitating lagoons is far from effective, and
17 the concentrations of nitrogen and particularly
18 phosphorous in the manure delivered over the
19 course of a pump out are highly variable.
20 Potassium is considerably more consistent.

21 Presentation by PDK Project to the
22 Livestock Stewardship Panel in 2000 is reflected
23 in the recommendation quotation. "Research should
24 be encouraged into the development of portable
25 manure nutrient measurement equipment." The

1 preamble for this recommendation indicates near
2 infrared spectroscopy can provide a continuous
3 measure of nutrient content in hog slurry. There
4 are prospects for its use in precision farming
5 when coupled with global positioning system
6 technology.

7 One of our purposes today is to
8 indicate that progress has been made on the use of
9 near infrared spectroscopy for the continuous
10 measurement of nutrient content in hog slurry.
11 The concept of measuring flowing manure with near
12 infrared spectroscopy was proven in 2005 with
13 prototype equipment. Most significantly, this
14 technology simultaneously measures both readily
15 and less readily available phosphorous and
16 nitrogen. Portable field kits, the so called
17 quick tests, for single samples of manure used
18 presently measure only one form of either nitrogen
19 or phosphorous.

20 Most recently, commercially ready
21 equipment developed primarily for other markets is
22 being adapted for the continuous measurement of
23 hog manure during lagoon pump out. This equipment
24 is expected to be commercially available in 2007.

25 This concludes our presentation. We

1 have touched on one small aspect of the very broad
2 and complex topics of ecologically sustainable
3 manure management. Thank you for the opportunity
4 to present this information.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
6 Mr. Eising.

7 Now to present a different issue
8 before us, "The Raging Grannies for Social
9 Justice."

10 SPEAKER: You would like us to
11 introduce ourselves, would you? Raging Grannies
12 for Social Justice is a newly formed group. We
13 all have the same concerns about the environment
14 and we tend to address things through humour
15 rather than through being deadly serious, and we
16 hope we can have just as much effect. So we have
17 a couple of songs that we would like to sing for
18 you. One is called "Hog fight" and the other one
19 is called "Blues for Lake Winnipeg."

20 (Singing)

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
22 Mr. Brandson noted it certainly beats powerpoint
23 presentations. The next person I have on my
24 agenda is Bonnie Nay. Please introduce yourself
25 for the record.

1 MS. NAY: Ladies and gentlemen, my
2 name is Bonnie Nay, and it is rather timely that
3 I'm here tonight because it has been mentioned
4 about southwestern Manitoba. I am an urban
5 dweller. I live in Winnipeg. However, I'm a
6 farmer's daughter and I'm proud to say that my
7 sister and I are in the process of renovating our
8 farm home to return to, to retire, and it is near
9 Ninga, Manitoba, which is very close to Killarney
10 in the RM of Turtle Mountain.

11 What I'm going to read is a letter I
12 wrote after an experience in the RM of Turtle
13 Mountain. We were approached by farmers to help
14 them fight off a factory hog operation and I
15 stress and underline farmers. I will start my
16 letter -- this was written in 2005, so the number
17 of pigs was considerably less than what they are
18 now.

19 Currently there are well over 7.2
20 million hogs in Manitoba with plans for
21 2.5 million more within a 150 kilometre radius of
22 Brandon. Turtle Mountain municipality has
23 approximately 170,000 pigs with plans for 70,000
24 more. The RM of Turtle Mountain recently approved
25 a factory farm containing 10,400 pigs two miles

1 north of Ninga, east one half, 313, 18WPM, despite
2 the majority of taxpayers' opposition to this mega
3 pig barn. This letter is written out of
4 exasperation as a feeling of despair, for it seems
5 that no matter what a farm community tries to do
6 democratically to prevent a factory hog farm from
7 gaining access, the RM will forge ahead with their
8 own agenda.

9 The impact that the ever increasing
10 industrialization of hogs has on the immediate
11 farm community and the province at large is being
12 ignored, despite community objections and
13 environmental repercussions. The democratic
14 process failed the community and surrounding area
15 on June 15, 2005, at the conditional use hearing
16 in the filled to capacity civic office of
17 Killarney. The majority of constituents and other
18 taxpayers were opposed to the factory hog barn
19 proponents application for development north of
20 Ninga.

21 Presentations of opposition to the
22 mega hog barn operation, both written and verbal,
23 were well researched and well prepared. One of
24 the local farmers even presented a referendum
25 which showed overwhelming opposition to the mega

1 hog barn. Another of the taxpayers spoke of the
2 increased risk to her son's already compromised
3 health, if a factory hog farm goes in near Ninga.
4 Some of the points raised by other presenters from
5 the majority opposed to the factory farm were as
6 follows:

7 First; the southwest technical review
8 committee erred in their analysis of the
9 applicants proposed factory hog barn.

10 The southwest technical review wrote
11 "There are no rivers and municipal drains in this
12 area." Wrong. There happens to be a major
13 municipal drain in this bog-like area called the
14 Ninga channel. The Ninga channel will drain
15 seepage runoff of untreated sewage from the mega
16 hog barn site, east one half, 313, 18WPM, into the
17 Pembina River, into the Red River and ultimately
18 Lake Winnipeg.

19 Secondly, phosphorous is, and this is
20 a quote, "already near the excess range in the
21 proposed site and spreading fields." Why then
22 would more be allowed? Quotation, Dr. Pip,
23 biologist of the University of Winnipeg.
24 Phosphorous can cause toxic algae blooms if it
25 washes off into the surface water. It will

1 eventually affect the eco-system of lakes and
2 rivers, affecting tourism and the fishing
3 industry. Commercial fertilizers used in other
4 farming practices are balanced in their nutrients.
5 Factory hog barn manure is not. Phosphorous in
6 excess, nitrates, evolving E. Coli, and other
7 "antibiotic, resistant bacteria are being
8 introduced into the groundwater and from there
9 into drinking water sources from factory hog barn
10 waste lagoons." This is from Jane Elliot and
11 Charles Mah study "Influence of hog manure
12 application on surface runoff water quality."

13 Thirdly, why aren't we promoting
14 environment friendly, neighbour friendly, animal
15 humane hog farming practices instead of the
16 factory farm industry? There are innovative farm
17 practices being developed by local farmers that
18 incorporate above-named considerations. Why
19 aren't local farmers being supported and
20 encouraged instead of these outsider factory
21 farms?

22 Near Ninga some of the local farmers
23 and other taxpayers have roots dating back to the
24 1880s. We do not want the factory farm industry
25 imposed on our community. The factory farm

1 industry has a vested interest only in their own
2 pockets, leaving a legacy of pollution for the
3 original community and future generations.

4 Fourthly, many permanent residents
5 near the proposed site have asthma and struggle to
6 maintain their health. Hydrogen sulfate and
7 ammonia, byproducts of factory pig barns,
8 volatilize readily into the air from the lagoons
9 and manure spread on fields. Surely this should
10 have raised a red flag when considering the
11 approval of a factory hog barn of 10,400 pigs near
12 long term residents --

13 There were many other points raised by
14 presenters, but space does not allow this luxury.
15 The bottom line is that democracy failed the
16 community of Ninga. The council did not listen to
17 their constituents and taxpayers. It would appear
18 they were playing into the hands of the factory
19 hog operations. One needs only to look up
20 research in North Carolina for a similar
21 situation, Pulitzer prize winning investigative
22 reporters, Jody Warrick and Pat Stein, exposed
23 factory pork farm operations and their aftermath.
24 The corporation's philosophy there is, why own the
25 farm when you can own the farmer? Is this what we

1 want to happen in rural Manitoba? The profit of a
2 few at the expense of the majority is
3 fundamentally wrong. There are other avenues to
4 choose from that will provide a balance for all of
5 those affected. Avenues that include support for
6 the local innovative farmer and the community at
7 large can lead to a win/win situation. The
8 community of Ninga and surrounding area did not
9 and do not want the factory hog operation of
10 10,400 pigs. Elected representatives, remember
11 us. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
13 Ms. Nay. Mr. Andrew Basham.

14 MR. BASHAM: I wasn't here to hear
15 everybody's presentations, I apologize for that.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Please introduce
17 yourself for the record.

18 MR. BASHAM: My name is Andrew Basham,
19 I'm currently the leader of the Green Party of
20 Manitoba, and I'm a student at the University of
21 Winnipeg, and I have lived in Winnipeg my whole
22 life. And I don't want to dictate policy or
23 anything to people living outside of the city,
24 however, I do recognize that most food is consumed
25 by urban dwellers, and therefore their

1 participation in setting food policy is somewhat
2 important. In terms of a hog industry review, I
3 think that it is sort of -- it is shortsighted to
4 only deal with the hog industry in and of itself,
5 without looking at the full agricultural system
6 and the sustainability of agriculture in Manitoba.
7 I think that should be reviewed.

8 I believe that basically we should
9 have a democratic goal setting process for the
10 food system of Manitoba. Manitobans should be
11 involved in deciding what kind of food they want
12 produced in Manitoba, and how they want it
13 produced and those kind of goals, a process of
14 setting goals like that should inform agricultural
15 policy for the province.

16 I don't think that's what is happening
17 now. I think that even decisions like holding
18 this review, how is this review decided on, should
19 be reviewed. I think agricultural policy and
20 democracy should be looked at. I think that
21 export oriented agriculture is not a good policy.
22 It is fossil fuel dependent and may be
23 unsustainable in the long term, given peak energy
24 that we are facing. I think we should develop
25 alternative ways to meet Manitobans democratically

1 decided on food system goals, so looking at what
2 are those goals, what do Manitobans want to eat,
3 what kind of food do they want? They should know
4 what is in their food as well. And I don't think
5 that government or industry should be setting the
6 goals for Manitobans. I think the other way
7 around, Manitobans should be setting goals for the
8 government and industry so they can meet their
9 actual demands, not just those limited by current
10 supply options.

11 Some of the concerns that I have with
12 the hog industry are water quality concerns, of
13 course, Lake Winnipeg and the aquifers around
14 there, also food quality and safety and
15 nutritional value, animal rights and ethics, the
16 capital water and energy intensiveness of
17 industrial sector, not limited to the hog industry
18 itself, because it is just one component of that.
19 I think we should promote more local organic
20 production for the benefit of Manitobans, and I
21 think that we should be looking at how decisions
22 are made to licence these barns. We just heard
23 that democracy has failed in local communities,
24 and we really need to restore that. That's all I
25 have for notes.

1 I think it is important to look at the
2 very real possibility that researchers, David
3 Schindler, is raising to us now that we are going
4 into a drought century, and basically we wouldn't
5 be able to have the abundant water that we have
6 been used to in this relatively wet century that
7 we have developed here in the prairies. And that
8 any ways that we can preserve water that we have
9 is critical and should be looked at.

10 And I just want to reiterate again how
11 important I think it is to include the consumers
12 in the development of agricultural policies so
13 that we know exactly what they want. And I don't
14 think that just because people buy certain
15 products means that they actually want them. It
16 sounds kind of weird, but basically their choices
17 are limited by the options presented to them. So
18 if they don't have an option of buying organic
19 food, then they are not going to be able to do
20 that, even though they may want that. That should
21 really be a focus of this review.

22 So I think you should expand it beyond
23 the hog industry itself and look at agricultural
24 sustainability in Manitoba as a whole and take
25 into consideration drought and the real need to

1 adapt our agricultural system to drought
2 conditions, and also to a fossil fuel limited
3 future. And that's pretty much all I have to say.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Basham.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Linda Smith?

7 MS. SMITH: My name is Linda Smith,
8 and I apologize that I don't have any organized
9 notes. However, I felt that I needed to say
10 something, although this was very short notice.

11 I grew up on a farm in southeastern
12 Manitoba, a mixed farm, which still now is a grain
13 farm. I spend my time both in the city and in the
14 country, and I am definitely a person who
15 appreciates the farm and the rural life.

16 I have lived in other places, and I
17 have experienced what other people experience when
18 they don't have good water. Now, I used to look
19 back over to Manitoba, Canada, where I grew up and
20 I thought, well, I'm sure glad they are a lot
21 smarter there because they protect their
22 resources, they are learning from their neighbors.
23 And we are, I understand, a very -- we in Manitoba
24 have -- are the people who have some of the best
25 water in the world.

1 I see, however, what is happening in
2 Manitoba. It grieves me, as it does many
3 Manitobans, that we are destroying our most
4 precious resource. And although I have great
5 sympathy for those farmers who are trying to make
6 a living, I don't think that today some of them
7 even understand or see what is happening to them.
8 I hear corporations that come in here and --
9 corporations even like our own Maple Leaf, which a
10 lot of people do still feel or think is a Canadian
11 company, but it is very much an international
12 company. I drive down by Panet Road and I see the
13 Japanese flag, the United States flag and the
14 Canadian flag. So I realize then that Maple Leaf
15 is no longer Canadian, it is an international
16 company, which helps me to understand why and how
17 some of what is happening is imposed upon our
18 governments today.

19 I did make a few notes of -- I would
20 say that the reason why Maple Leaf has done so
21 well and there is more growth in the hog industry
22 than in any other province in Canada is because
23 there are no regulations. There are no rules.
24 The few laws that are in place today are hardly
25 what one can call laws. The phosphorous law that

1 has just more recently been written is not one
2 that is enforced. Neither are the other, in any
3 other part of the regulations, the few regulations
4 that are in place, enforced. There is no
5 enforcement. There are no enforcement officers
6 per se. And there are many other reasons, I
7 suppose, as was written in some of the rural
8 papers back in the late 90's that the other reason
9 that the hog industry was going to do so well in
10 Manitoba is because the grain prices were going to
11 be kept low. And, you know, with all of these
12 things that are imposed upon the farmers, what
13 else can one expect except intimidation, and the
14 stories that I hear from hog farmers in the rural
15 areas, who regret being a hog farmer now, are that
16 they are becoming slaves on their own land. They
17 are being -- these rules that are being enforced,
18 now there is no regulation and that's what the
19 industry wants to avoid is regulation.

20 So the guidelines, and I have read the
21 book, I know the hog industry guidelines, they are
22 for small scale hog farming, not for factory
23 farming. And then there is much more that I could
24 say about what has been said about then the
25 justification of the hog industry.

1 But the qualifications for manure
2 management requiring farmers to be certified crop
3 advisors, go to Assiniboine college, become
4 professional manure managers, does that put all of
5 the farmers, the hog farmers that are presently
6 operators -- they are not farmers any more, they
7 have been reduced to operators of factory barns,
8 and slaves on their own land, and now they are
9 being required to put in, pay the dollars for the
10 technology for proper manure management, better
11 manure management, better handling of manure, when
12 the real owners of the pigs are Maple Leaf, or in
13 this case I should say Hytek. They are the owners
14 of the hogs.

15 This requirement that I just heard
16 tonight about the certified crop advisors, et
17 cetera, this would suggest to me that Maple Leaf
18 would be wanting to be the manure managers and
19 then thus be a monopoly perhaps here in Manitoba,
20 and being an international company, then can
21 enforce the NAFTA regulations and rules, and state
22 that they can do what they want just so that they
23 can make their profits. We have heard those
24 stories before here in Manitoba. And not everyone
25 seems to be aware of those things, but that's what

1 is happening.

2 My dad is a grain farmer and he
3 doesn't like the monopolies, and he doesn't like
4 the fact that farmers are slaves on their own
5 lands today. The hog industry has a lot to do
6 with that.

7 Current practices elsewhere, in
8 looking at those that should take in Europe.
9 After all, Manitoba has signs in Europe inviting
10 hog producers to come here. If they can't make it
11 over there because of regulation, well then, come
12 over here to Manitoba. The signs are up, go read
13 them on big billboards.

14 As far as the density scale,
15 geography, economics, well, who is going to pay
16 for all of the damage that's being caused here in
17 Manitoba? Is it going to be the international
18 companies? I think not. It is the Canadian
19 resident who cannot do anything about it except to
20 do what their government tells them they have to
21 do, however the government can't tell the
22 international companies what to do. So the
23 Canadian resident pays and they pay dearly. They
24 are paying for their loss of good resource, water,
25 they are paying for their loss of air. They are

1 paying higher taxes so that when Maple Leaf comes
2 to the government and they want a handout, they
3 get it. They don't even have to pay for the
4 manure management, higher technology practices
5 that is being imposed, they can do whatever they
6 want. And this is not -- there is something very,
7 very wrong with this picture. Very wrong.

8 As far as the geography of the land,
9 we all know that the maps were changed. The land
10 maps were changed to accommodate the hog industry.
11 Soil maps -- soil doesn't change, we know those
12 facts. People in Manitoba, a lot of them just
13 shake their heads, it is what is happening with
14 our government.

15 Satellite imagery: Well, satellite
16 imagery may show some things but it doesn't show
17 everything. However, there are lots of people who
18 have lots of aerial photos and other photos of
19 pollution, cutouts of lagoons where they are
20 allowed to overflow on to the land. There is no
21 enforcement. There is nothing to stop that. It
22 is much -- it is much cheaper for a hog farmer to
23 allow that putrified lagoon sewage to go on to the
24 land, it costs -- it used to cost by comparison
25 about \$10 per acre to spread this stuff by

1 comparison to maybe at most \$4 per acre for the
2 fine. So it is much cheaper to just pay the fine,
3 if they are fined, and in the municipality where I
4 grew up there was not a lagoon, but probably
5 the -- yes, the glass lined, the glass lined
6 container, it was spilling over, and in being
7 reported, the dates that it was reported were
8 quite different from the actual date that it
9 happened. It is funny how things get twisted
10 around in favour of the hog industry.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Miss Smith, could you
12 bring it to a conclusion? Your 15 minutes is up.

13 MS. SMITH: Okay. That's one thing
14 that -- there are many things to be talked about,
15 of course, but worst of all is what the
16 international companies and people in the hog
17 industry don't understand is that their destroying
18 of our precious water resource is not something
19 that can be taken lightly. We have to have
20 strict, very strict rules and regulations that
21 are -- all of the guidelines in, that are in the
22 book would have to be enhanced tenfold or much
23 more than that and made into law, each and every
24 bit of it. But for some reason that isn't
25 happening. They are destroying lives. The horror

1 stories of people who have had move to move lock,
2 stock and barrel buildings and move away. There
3 is all kinds of them. Not to mention children who
4 are getting sick at a very young age, respiratory
5 diseases, people want to ignore that.

6 And in conclusion, I would say that
7 the moratorium has to continue permanently because
8 there is no regulation, there is no enforcement.
9 Until that is in place, what you have here is the
10 cart before the horse.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
12 Gordon White?

13 MR. WHITE: Thank you. My name is
14 Gordon White. I'm a fourth generation grain
15 producer in southwestern Manitoba, and I use just
16 about exclusively hog manure as a nutrient.

17 As far as some of the stuff that I
18 have heard here tonight where there is no
19 regulations and there is no enforcement, is
20 totally wrong. The manure side of my farm is the
21 most regulated thing that I do. I did a fair
22 amount of research. Prior to getting into
23 livestock manure, I actually invited a large
24 livestock company into my area. I sold two pieces
25 of land for them to set up on, which I also

1 reinvested the money that I got from the sale of
2 land into the operation. It is the most
3 environmentally sustainable operation on my farm.
4 I have a 6,000 finisher head operation within a
5 little over a third of a mile from my house to the
6 southwest. I have a 6,000 sow operation a mile
7 and a half to the northwest. One is on the south
8 end of my -- I farm approximately 1950 acres now
9 that I own. It is fourth generation. It is way
10 more sustainable now than it ever has been.

11 My grandfather who is still alive and
12 is very intelligent, he is in his 99th year, he
13 went to university with Tommy Douglas. He feels
14 what I am doing is the best thing for the
15 environment, for the farm and for the local
16 economy. Everything that is done with the manure,
17 because it is a large operation, is done through
18 manure management plans. I cannot apply manure if
19 a soil test, even though the soil test may not be
20 accurate, it can not be applied. But I can go out
21 and apply a chemical fertilizer, whatever I want,
22 with no regulation. So the manure is highly
23 regulated.

24 This year, my neighbors grew an
25 average crop to some a little below average. I

1 have been applying manure on my farm now for over
2 eight years. I grew the best crop I have ever
3 grown. My land has been growing crops through my
4 family for over 100 years. For the first 50 of
5 which nothing was replaced. It was mined. You
6 can not harvest a pound of beef, a blade of grass,
7 a bushel of wheat without replacing what you are
8 taking off that land.

9 The manure, if tested and if applied
10 properly, is far more sustainable than chemical
11 fertilizer.

12 Soil does change. 50 years ago, even
13 30 years ago when I started farming, we had sand
14 ridges. We had summer fallow fields blowing. We
15 had soil erosion from water. Now, in southwestern
16 Manitoba, conservation tillage is peak. You don't
17 see soil blowing, you don't see erosion from
18 runoff. I feel what is getting into the rivers is
19 of higher quality than it was 40 years ago. I
20 have a lot of problems with the science from Lake
21 Winnipeg looking at agriculture. I feel there is
22 less damage caused by agriculture today than there
23 was 20 years ago. I think places like the City of
24 Winnipeg I feel are probably a far greater cause
25 of phosphate pollution because there is none

1 removed from their sewage system. And the best
2 thing that can be done with Lake Winnipeg as a
3 whole is to harvest the nutrients. Algae is a
4 proven form of ethanol; be like a farmer, do
5 something with it.

6 The Clean Environment Commission, I'm
7 concerned if you make the regulations more
8 stringent there are going to be fewer farmers. In
9 my area to be a viable farm, you have either got
10 to get bigger or get better. I feel that I have
11 got better. I can viably run a 1900-acre farm.
12 I'm putting three daughters through university.
13 I'm better to the environment than I was when I
14 began farming. And my biggest problem in my area
15 is population. The hog operation that I was part
16 of inviting in has a payroll of over \$1 million.
17 It has made our school vibrant, it has brought
18 people in. Nobody has died. I have a daughter,
19 my youngest daughter has asthma. She worked two
20 summers in the sow barn on the farrowing side.
21 She is going to university right now in her third
22 year at the University of Toronto. She has more
23 problems with her asthma there than she did in the
24 barn. She had no problems in the barn. And that
25 was during the heat of the summer.

1 So in summation, I was a little
2 disappointed that you didn't have one of these
3 meetings in Brandon or in the southwest part, but
4 I understand you are going to in the further
5 meetings, which is good.

6 And I hope you pay credence to the
7 ones that do live near and are agricultural
8 producers, just not the green, tree huggers or
9 whatever, that think that hogs are all bad. What
10 I have seen and drove around, is they are good,
11 they are viable. The larger ones are actually
12 more sustainable and do a more environmentally
13 friendly job because they don't have the same
14 constraints as a small farm.

15 Most farmers out in our area have many
16 jobs. I have been able to sustain my family and
17 my livelihood and buy out my father and my
18 grandfather because my farm is sustainable. I
19 haven't had to have off farm income. But we do
20 have lots of jobs. I'm in my 14th year as a
21 municipal councillor, I'm on the conservation
22 district board, I am also a member of KAP. We do
23 a lot of things. We care about our area. We have
24 to live there, and we want to sustain there, and
25 we want to attract more people back. Thank you

1 very much.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. White.
3 I believe there may still be copies. We have a
4 list of where we are going to be holding the
5 meetings throughout the province, list and
6 locations and dates. We will be having
7 meetings -- I know we have scheduled them in
8 Brandon, Virden, Hamiota, Killarney. So we should
9 pretty well cover most of farming Manitoba.

10 That is the last person that indicated
11 that he or she wanted to make a presentation. Is
12 there anybody else who would like to make a
13 presentation at this time?

14 Well, thank you all for -- yes, sir.
15 Please introduce yourself for the record?

16 MR. WEINBERG: My name is Alon
17 Weinberg, and I haven't been actively monitoring
18 the hog situation the last couple of years, but I
19 was around the time of '99 when I guess the
20 transition from the PC to NDP government.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: What was your first
22 name?

23 MR. WEINBERG: Alon. I don't know if
24 it was spoken earlier, so I might be repeating
25 myself. I would like to make a couple of small

1 comments.

2 Number one has to do with overall
3 process. It seems somehow there was a policy
4 decision in the last ten years or possibly 12
5 years ago, to increase the number of hogs greatly
6 in this province. And I suppose that was
7 somewhere around the late 90s. Now it is 2007 and
8 we are finally sitting down to discuss whether
9 this is sustainable or not. So I think there is a
10 mistake in the process. I think these things
11 should be studied and researched before planning,
12 and I would strongly advise use of the
13 precautionary principle, whereby before a major
14 change or intervention happens environmentally and
15 economically, that the onus be on the industry to
16 show that it is sustainable, that it is safe and
17 that it can guarantee the health, both
18 economically and environmentally of the people and
19 the communities affected.

20 So I just want to put that out there,
21 why are we asking this question seven years into
22 this massive development?

23 And the other thing that I would like
24 to say is, I think this cannot be studied in a
25 vacuum. You need to look at agricultural and

1 rural policy collectively. I know a lot of people
2 around my age, in my early 30s, I'm from the city
3 but I know a lot of people now who are from rural
4 areas throughout Manitoba, and a lot of us are
5 talking about going back to live on land. My
6 family hasn't been living on land in generations,
7 but a lot of my friends are one generation removed
8 from the land. And I think the biggest concern is
9 the scale of the lifestyle of industrial versus
10 small scale agriculture. This idea of get big or
11 get out, or I guess as you said, get better, which
12 is something that we need to have a real debate
13 and discussion about in this province for the
14 betterment of future generations who do want to
15 live rurally.

16 So I would just question the -- I
17 think the sustainability of the industry has to go
18 hand in hand with looking at the sustainability of
19 local food systems and how we are going to develop
20 that. I know a lot of the young people who do
21 want live out on land are looking at our
22 dependance on fossil fuels for our food, and food
23 production for local consumption is the focus of
24 people that I know who are talking about living
25 rurally.

1 So I think to only contextualize it,
2 as so often we do, in the context of international
3 trade, NAFTA, big industries, commodities and
4 such, is to fail to grasp the aspirations of young
5 Manitobans who really do want to be part of
6 building a local sustainable food system which is
7 not dependent on fossil fuels, which means
8 apprenticeship programs and other such things to
9 get people living on the land. It means local
10 markets, it means developing a made in Manitoba
11 ethos, which I think the government, whoever it
12 would be, needs to take leadership on. And I
13 think there needs to be some sort of transitional
14 funding available so people can transition to
15 smaller scale, whether that's subsistence or more
16 of an organic style of agriculture. And I think
17 all of these things have to be considered as part
18 of the review of the hog industry, because the hog
19 industry, I think, was pushed and I understand
20 why, because, you know, with the global conditions
21 being the way they were and the price of grain,
22 farmers were having a tough time, and you look for
23 alternative sources of income.

24 But I think looking for this one big
25 industrial panacea has gotten us into a lot of the

1 environmental problems that we are in today. We
2 need to look at diversified and decentralized
3 economic and social and environmental models.

4 So whether that includes reviewing the
5 potential sustainability of a hemp industry in
6 Manitoba, I know there has been some motion on
7 that, that's the kind of industry that you can
8 create not only food products but also it could
9 lower the amount of logging in this province. So
10 I think other niche markets and diversified
11 markets are things that we have to look at.

12 I think we have a creative and
13 practical population with a lot of skill and a
14 desire to keep Manitoba supposedly clean, but I
15 think we are far away in practice from that. And
16 I would just add that we should consider long term
17 viability of communities and follow ecological
18 principles in doing so, because I think ultimately
19 the social community will benefit from ecological
20 design in our communities.

21 I would love to live outside of the
22 city, and the way the prairies have become so
23 industrialized, and basically sold off to the
24 highest bidder, but it is for this race to the
25 bottom that our generation has become very cynical

1 about. And I think if you want to keep people in
2 Manitoba, and I think we would all like to do
3 that, we need to come up with a sustainable plan.
4 So I don't think it is wise to look at one sector
5 in a vacuum, because nature doesn't work that way,
6 society doesn't work that way, and ecosystems,
7 they definitely don't function that way. We need
8 to take those things into consideration.

9 I do occasionally hug a tree, and I am
10 proud because I feel connected with everything
11 that was put on this earth through whatever theory
12 you believe brought it here. And I also
13 understand, I think I'm beginning to from meeting
14 more and more people from around Manitoba, what it
15 means to just struggle to try to feed a family,
16 put them through university, and I respect that,
17 and I think collectively in a non-adversarial way
18 we can start a discussion in this province and
19 start to come up with some creative solutions that
20 will see young people interested again in being
21 rural and living rural, and making an honest
22 living that will be sustainable for future
23 generations. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
25 Mr. Weinberg.

1 Anybody else that would like to make a
2 presentation?

3 Well, I thank you all for coming out
4 here this afternoon and this evening. We will
5 adjourn here. We will be reconvening in two days
6 in Morden, at the Morden Legion Hall at one
7 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Thank you very
8 much and good evening.

9 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:35 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

CECELIA REID and LISA REID, duly appointed
Official Examiners 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.

Cecelia Reid

Lisa Reid

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