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Scoping Meetings re: Factory Hog Industry
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There are 4 broad categories that must be included in any analysis of the hog industry in Manitoba that purports to be thorough. They are:

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

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

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

Animal cruelty is rampant in hog factories. Sows are brutally treated, piglets are taken from their mothers prematurely and pigs are kept in crowded, sunless factories. These animals are deprived of their natural behaviours and in treating them cruelly we deny our own superior humanity. As a lawful society we can get away with this because our leaders, upon the supplication of corporations, have written laws that sanitize cruelty to animals as long as cruelty to animals is ordinarily a technique used to make a profit. The Animal Care Act which encourages and condones cruelty to farm animals should be struck down and re-written in the context of true humaneness.

Few of your presenters will raise the issue of **social discord**, yet this is the primary reason why the "pause" or "temporary moratorium" has been established. The hog industry has violated its privileges. Starting in 1976 it was exempted from civil behaviour by The Nuisance Act. In 1992 The Farm Practices Protection Act superseded the The Nuisance Act and hog factories have used this legislation to avoid their social responsibilities.

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

The Environment Act and The Sustainable Development Act make numerous references to social issues and human wellness. In my experience Environmental Impact Assessments that invoke these sections of these Acts are rare indeed. I trust that the Clean Environment Commission will include these issues in the subsequent Public Meetings that are to be held in March or April.

Finally, I need to know the number. What number, you ask? The number of pigs that will be the upper limit to be raised in Manitoba. Today it is approximately 9 million. Is that the limit? Is the limit 10 million? Should it be 6 million? Can it be 20 million? The hog industry, politicians, public servants and citizens must answer the question of capacity. It is self-evident and unavoidable that there is a ceiling on this industry's impact. We must identify that capacity before the moratorium is lifted. I want to know the number. I want to know it because we cannot grow our way to sustainability.