

BSE Class Action Lawsuit and Petition

Background and Instruction Sheet

BSE hit **all** Canadian cattle producers, both dairy and beef, on May 20, 2003. Since that time Canadian cattle producers have suffered substantial financial losses which have not improved significantly, despite the opening of international markets to Canadian cattle and beef.

A lawsuit was filed against the Federal Government in 2005 by a group of cattle producers to seek a judgment for damages on behalf of cattle producers across Canada. Despite the best efforts of the Federal Government to strike the claim, this lawsuit has now been certified as a class action and will go to trial. However, the estimated time to go through to trial, including the expected appeals right up to the Supreme Court of Canada, will be approximately another 10 years. That will mean 17 years from the BSE crisis in 2003 to judgment for cattle producers.

Cattle producers are now seeking to have this process sped up through an independent mediation process. Your participation in signing this petition will tell the Federal Government – Enough is enough!

Please support farm producers by signing this petition and letting your voice be heard for the cattle producers of Canada that you support them toward an early settlement of the BSE class action.

For information as to why cattle producers deserve a settlement please see www.bseclassaction.ca

Petition Process

1. Download a copy of petition description and signing sheets from www.bseclassaction.ca unless attached to this email.
2. Review the list of Members of Parliament and choose yours in your area.
3. Have concerned citizens fill in the requirements for name, address (town/province is sufficient) and sign in ink.
4. Complete the minimum 25 signature requirement to fill petition which makes it valid. It is **STRONGLY** recommended to have minimum 30

signatures in the event your MP or the Petitions Clerk disallows signatures for whatever reason. One cover page with numerous signing sheets is fine and encouraged. The MORE signatures the better. Copy more signing sheets as needed.

5. Make one photocopy of completed petition and send to :
Margo Staniforth RR #3 Eckville, Alberta T0M 0X0
6. Present completed petition with original signatures to your Member of Parliament office in your area on June 30,2010. The goal is to have petitions delivered to 308 MP offices on this date across Canada.
7. If you are able to complete more petitions for submission through other concerned parties such as community groups, your place of employment, post office or local businesses – we encourage you to do so and appreciate your help. Download another copy and pass it around. The more completed petitions submitted per MP office, the more Government will understand the support that is out there for farm producers in Canada.
8. Keep track of where you dropped petitions off to ensure you can collect them all or remind them to submit them in time to MP offices.
Remember- incomplete or non-submitted petitions or those not backed up with a photocopy – will keep your voices silent.

THANK YOU!

Together we can help those who produce our food!

PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada, wish to bring to your attention the ongoing hardship caused to the cattle farmers of Canada as the result of the BSE crisis.

“On 20 May 2003, a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was detected in Alberta. This discovery set off a series of events that devastated Canadian cattlemen and other livestock producers and that continue to do so. The immediate closing of borders across the industrialized world to Canadian cattle and beef products sent cattle prices spiralling downward, led to the building of record levels of cattle inventories, dramatically raised feed costs, drained cattlemen’s cash positions and completely eliminated any chance for profitability in 2003, with little prospects for recovery in the immediate and foreseeable future.” – Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, April 2004

Prophetic words. There continue to be little prospects for a full recovery in the immediate and foreseeable future for the cattle producers of Canada. Statistics Canada reports that there are 23,000 fewer farms reporting cattle today than there were on May 20, 2003.

A class action on behalf of the cattle producers of Canada was launched in April of 2005, claiming that negligence on the part of Agriculture Canada allowed BSE from imported British cattle to infect Canadian cattle (BSE class action). This class action has now been certified and is proceeding to trial.

The Government of Canada settled the Hepatitis C class actions. The Government of Canada settled the Residential Schools class actions. The cattle farmers of Canada need help now. The BSE class action represents the interests of 135,000 hardworking Canadian farm families.

THEREFORE, we call upon the Government of Canada to appoint the Honourable Mr. Justice Frank Iacobucci as Mediator to facilitate settlement between the Government of Canada and the cattle farmers.

Signatures

(Sign your own name. Do not print.)

Addresses

(Give your full home address, or your city and province, or province and postal code)

SEND ORIGINAL SIGNED PETITIONS ONLY TO THE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE OF YOUR MP

