

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITIZENS RESORT TO LAW TO GET GOVERNMENTS TO LISTEN

KINGSTON, ONT - "We're heading to the courts," said Dianne Dowling of the Save Our Prison Farms campaign.

Campaign members met today with Don Head, the Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), to ask for a three month moratorium on the sale of the animals and dismantling of the farms.

"The campaign group offered to work with Corrections to create a win-win plan for our community that could include green energy initiatives as well as a cheese operation," said Dowling.

"Our government has an opportunity to work with the community," said Bridget Doherty a member of the campaign team. "We can create a working group that could include members from SWITCH, St. Lawrence College, Queen's University and the University of Guelph. We asked for time to develop a plan and give the community an opportunity to be heard."

"It's clear that there is no willingness to work with us," said Jeff Peters from the campaign. "The previous Minister asked us to come up with a proposal that can make money but when the coalition presented a proposal, we are told that there will be no extra time or financial commitment to explore any alternatives."

While the Commissioner would not give the group extra time, an interim injunction filed by the Frontenac Institution Inmate Committee will give the group a few more days.

"The department of Justice has assured our counsel that no action, including the sale of the animals, will be taken until the courts have heard our application for an interim injunction," said Dowling. "The matter will likely proceed on July 19 or 20."

"Our frustration is building and our community will keep a close eye on any action that takes place on the farm between now and then," said John Williamson who also attended the meeting with Mr. Head. "We look forward to Minister Vic Toew's response when briefed by Mr. Head."

"The Minister or the Prime Minister can reverse this decision and show that his government is willing to work with Canadians who believe that closing these farms just doesn't make sense," Dowling said.

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