

1972 Bill 49

First Session, 17th Legislature, 21 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 49

The Meat Inspection Act

MR. FLUKER

First Reading

Second Reading

Third Reading

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1972

THE MEAT INSPECTION ACT

(Assented to _____, 1972)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. In this Act,

- (a) "abattoir" means premises where animals are slaughtered;
- (b) "animal" means an animal the meat of which is intended to be used for human consumption and includes poultry and rabbits;
- (c) "Director" means the Director of Veterinary Services;
- (d) "establishment" means an establishment operating under the *Meat Inspection Act* (Canada);
- (e) "inspector" means an inspector appointed under this Act and includes a veterinary inspector;
- (f) "meat" means the flesh of any animal or any product thereof intended for human consumption in primary or processed form;
- (g) "Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture;
- (h) "poultry" means chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and other birds;
- (i) "slaughter" means slaughter for the purpose of processing meat from animals into food for human consumption;
- (j) "veterinary inspector" means a veterinarian registered under *The Veterinary Surgeons Act* and appointed as an inspector.

2. (1) The Minister may appoint veterinary inspectors and other inspectors as may be required for the administration of this Act.

(2) All inspectors who are not employed pursuant to *The Public Service Act* shall receive such remuneration and expenses as the Minister may from time to time determine.

3. Every medical officer of health appointed under *The Public Health Act* by a local board of health or by the

Explanatory Notes

1. Definitions.

2. Appointment of inspectors.

3. Ex officio inspectors.

Provincial Board of Health is by virtue of his office an inspector under this Act within the area of his jurisdiction.

4. Except as provided in the regulations, no person shall slaughter an animal unless the animal has been inspected by an inspector immediately before the time of slaughter.

5. Except as provided in the regulations, no person shall sell, offer for sale, transport or deliver to any person meat unless

- (a) the animal from which the meat was obtained was inspected by an inspector under section 4,
- (b) the slaughter of the animal took place at an abattoir or at an establishment,
- (c) there was a post-mortem inspection of the carcass of the animal from which the meat was obtained conducted by an inspector immediately after the slaughter of the animal, and
- (d) the meat is judged by an inspector to be healthy and fit for human consumption and the meat is stamped with an inspection legend or is labelled, as provided in the regulations.

6. Every carcass or portion of a carcass of an animal or any product therefrom which is found upon inspection to be unhealthy or unfit for food or which contains ingredients or preservatives which may render it unfit for food shall be so marked by an inspector in the prescribed manner and shall thereupon be deemed to be condemned as unfit for food and shall be disposed of in accordance with the regulations.

7. (1) An operator of an abattoir may apply to the Director to have animal and meat inspections conducted at the abattoir.

(2) The Director may approve the application but if the Director is not satisfied by the material filed that the application should be approved the Director shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the regulations and may thereafter approve or refuse the application.

(3) Where an application is refused, a copy of the decision and the reason therefor shall, within 10 days, be forwarded to the applicant by registered post.

(4) An applicant whose application has been refused by the Director may appeal to the Minister in accordance with the regulations and the Minister, after hearing the applicant and making such inquiry as he considers necessary, may confirm the decision or may approve the application upon any terms or conditions he considers expedient.

4. Slaughter of animals.

5. Sale of meat.

6. Inspector may condemn meat unfit for food.

7. Inspections may, on application, be conducted at abattoirs.

8. (1) For the purpose of carrying out his duties under this Act, the Director or an inspector may, with or without a warrant, enter any premises or building at any reasonable hour and may inspect the premises or building and any animal or meat therein.

(2) No person shall hinder or obstruct the Director or an inspector in the course of his duties or furnish him with false information, or refuse to furnish him with information.

9. The production by an inspector of a certificate of his appointment purporting to be signed by the Minister shall be admitted in evidence as prima facie proof of his appointment without further proof of the signature or authority of the Minister.

10. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and on summary conviction is liable for a first offence to a fine of not more than \$500 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both fine and imprisonment, and for a subsequent offence to a fine of not more than \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than one year, or to both fine and imprisonment.

11. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

- (a) providing for the issue, renewal, suspension or revocation of or refusal to issue or renew licences to operate abattoirs and prescribing the fees payable for the licences or any renewal thereof;
- (b) prescribing conditions for licensing;
- (c) prescribing the powers and duties of the Director and of inspectors or any class thereof;
- (d) respecting the facilities and equipment to be provided and maintained at abattoirs and the operation of abattoirs;
- (e) respecting cleanliness and sanitation at abattoirs;
- (f) requiring and governing the detention and disposal of any animal or meat thereof and prescribing the procedures therefor;
- (g) prescribing humane methods of rendering animals unconscious prior to slaughter;
- (h) prescribing the records to be made and kept by operators of abattoirs;
- (i) providing for the exemption from the Act or the regulations, or any provision thereof, of any person or class of persons, or of any animal or class of animals and the meat thereof, and prescribing the terms and conditions therefor;

8. Right of entry.

9. Proof of appointment.

10. Offences.

11. Regulations.

- (j) prescribing the terms and conditions under which animals and meat may be inspected at any abattoir and the fees payable for inspections;
- (k) governing hearings and appeals on applications for inspections at abattoirs;
- (l) providing for the stamping with an inspection legend at an abattoir of meat that is fit for human consumption;
- (m) providing for the labelling at an abattoir of meat that is fit for human consumption;
- (n) prescribing forms and providing for their use;
- (o) respecting any matter necessary or advisable to carry out effectively the intent and purpose of this Act.

12. This Act comes into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

