

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto
Ontario M7A 1A5

October 2, 2025

RE: Saving Marineland's beluga whales and other marine mammals

Dear Premier Ford,

As the national federation of humane societies and SPCAs who represents more than 50 animal welfare organizations across Canada, we appreciate Minister Thompson's thoroughness in making the decision to uphold the intent of Bill S-203¹ and deny Marineland's beluga whale export application made by Marineland, which included her physically going to the facility and meeting the whales in person. In doing so, she has recognized that allowing them to be sold to another entertainment facility is not in their best interest.

We also appreciate your attention to the matter recently in news that another beluga whale and one harbour seal have died,² leaving approximately thirty beluga whales, four dolphins, two sea lions and two seals, as well as a number of other land mammals remaining at Marineland. Their continued lack of public transparency is a matter of great concern, as is the statement from a source to the CBC that they plan to declare bankruptcy and give the animals to the government for euthanasia.³ They have also refused offers from experts from our organization, the Whale Sanctuary Project and World Animal Protection, all of whom have offered to work with Marineland to find homes for their marine mammals.

Public communication about the measures to be taken by the Ontario government to help these beluga whales and other Marineland residents is critical, not only because of the significant public interest, but also the shared responsibility for their health and welfare between all levels of government and Marineland.

The most important first step is to allow independent experts to go in and assess the current condition of these whales, who may not even be fit for any travel. What might be most appropriate is for the Ontario government to step in now, and take the following decisive actions:

- Seize and appropriate Marineland and the surrounding land;
- Put the money normally paid in appropriation under the *Expropriations Act* into a trust and use that money as collateral to ensure that Marineland follows through to build a palliative care sanctuary and not just take the money and continue to wash their hands of the responsibilities owed to these animals;

¹ [S-203 \(42-1\) - LEGISinfo - Parliament of Canada](#)

² [Another beluga, seal have died at Marineland. The deaths caught Doug Ford's attention | Globalnews.ca](#)

³ [Federal government denies Marineland request to export belugas](#)

- Partner with marine animal experts to determine how a facility of this magnitude should be built and hire local resources where possible to create this facility; and
- Partner with animal welfare experts to assist in raising funds to be matched by the government for building and maintaining this sanctuary until the whales' natural deaths;

Should Marineland continue to pursue bankruptcy, the government should enter the proceedings as a creditor to ensure that Marineland will be compelled to build the sanctuary and cannot abdicate their responsibilities.

Humane Canada understands that undertaking the relocation of animals such as beluga whales and dolphins requires careful planning and considerable resources, but the federal government's decision on this matter is clear: these animals are not chattels to be sold off without consideration. A palliative care facility would take a formerly much maligned property and turn it into a feel-good story with a happy ending for the Niagara region and an instant win for the Ontario government.

We are hopeful that this decision to deny the exporting of these whales because it is not in their best interest will bring all parties to the table to find a solution for these intelligent, social creatures right here at home.

Yours truly,



Chief Executive Officer

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About Humane Canada

Formerly known as the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Humane Canada is the only national organization representing humane societies and SPCAs in Canada. We work to drive positive, progressive change to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals.

Our members are the very organizations that Canadians have depended upon, not only to care for abused and abandoned animals, but also to advocate for greater care and protection of animals and provide community resources, research, and humane education. Humane Societies and SPCAs are among the oldest and most trusted social institutions in the country.

Member Organizations

Alberta Animal Rescue
Crew Society

Alliston and District
Humane Society

Animatch

Association of Animal
Shelter
Administrators of Ontario

BC SPCA

Burin Peninsula SPCA

Burlington Humane Society

Calgary Humane Society

Canadian Association for
Humane Trapping

Central Alberta Humane
Society

Charlotte County SPCA Inc.

Cochrane & Area Humane
Society

Edmonton Humane Society

Exploits Valley SPCA

Fort McMurray SPCA

Fredericton SPCA

Gander & Area SPCA

Georgian Triangle Humane
Society

Guelph Humane Society

Hamilton Burlington SPCA

Happy Valley Goose Bay
SPCA

Humane Society Dawson

Humane Society Hastings
Prince Edward

Humane Society Kawartha
Lakes

Humane Society London &
Middlesex

Humane Society of Greater
Niagara

Medicine Hat SPCA

Miramichi SPCA

Montreal SPCA

New Brunswick SPCA

Northwest Territories SPCA

Nova Scotia SPCA

Oakville & Milton Humane
Society

Ontario SPCA & Humane
Society

Oromocto & Area SPCA

Ottawa Humane Society

Prince Edward Island
Humane Society

Regina Cat Rescue

Regina Humane Society

Saskatchewan SPCA

Saskatoon SPCA

Sault Ste. Marie & District
SPCA

Société protectrice des
animaux de Québec

Southwest Coast SPCA

SPA de l'Estrie

SPCA de L'Outaouais

St. Johns SPCA

The Humane Society of
Kitchener Waterloo &
Stratford Perth

Thunder Bay and District
Humane Society

Toronto Humane Society

Vancouver Humane Society

Victoria Humane Society

Windsor Essex County
Humane Society

Winnipeg Humane Society